

MILITARY Miniatures

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN REVIEW ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



EXPLOSIVE!

Super Detailing

We screw up several
perfectly good armor kits

DREAM MACHINE GRUPPE:

The Tamiya Wespe

DML's Early Hetzer

The Tamiya 222 armored car

DML's Kügelblitz

Plus bonus reference photo sections
on the Wespe, Hetzer and the Kügelblitz!

Just for the heck of it:

Commander's Char D2

The T-26 tanks in plastic,
available kits reviewed,
plus line drawings and...

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The Year in Preview New Product Megaganza!

14

No. 14
FALL 1997

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ON THE COVER:

All those parts laid out are for the Wespe feature that begins on page 35. No less than eight different products can be put on the Tamiya kit to dress it up, take it out and kiss it good night!

The pissed off looking guys in the background are from the new Warrior piece: "Blowing the Bridge." Believe it or not the model you see is out of the box, expertly photographed and painted by Chris Mrosko. See the Mini-Men reviews beginning on page 58.

From Your Editor



Hey, did you guys know we moved? I'm not sure if very many of you noticed the change at the bottom of the column at right. We ditched our teeny office cubby and wacky landlord and moved to beautiful Delray Beach, Florida. Now, of course, we already lived in beautiful Boca Raton, Florida, so the beautiful part was not much of a switch. However, we have significantly expanded the size of our operation and this includes stuff like room for a few more bodies sitting in front of keyboards, a larger and more permanent modeling studio and a permanent photography set up. No more bringing stuff out and taking it down. We took off just after the close of issue 13 and we've been settling in ever since.

Please make sure that any correspondence is directed to our new address, as we've been informed by the Post Office that because of the way our old building was set-up in terms of the lack of a central mail box, our forwarding order may not quite stick as well as it should. Nice huh?

We have some interesting ground to cover in this issue. A massive new product section has been compiled for your viewing pleasure. This is the result of several thousand miles worth of research. New items were hunted down in both the U.S. at the RCHTA show in Chicago, at the Euro Militaire event in the U.K. and from our friendly contacts in Japan. I get tired just thinking about it... However, I think it was worth all the work, we have a lot of detailed information to present and we also have included many more photos than a normal feature of its type. This "Year in Preview" section usually appears in our final issue of the year, but that typically makes it out after the holidays. I thought you might appreciate having the magazine around so that you can leave it where your wife can see it. Maybe with a Post-it note saying something like "Dear Santa..."

Many of the items that you see in these pages will be in the next issue as full reviews. We currently are knee deep in kits. Think plastic!

Our theme this issue is super detailing and we have tried to cover most of the cost spectrum when it comes to this subject. These articles tend to be a bit longer in length and we've also supplemented them with some hefty photo sections. I am especially excited about our analysis of the Kübelblitz, considering how very rare the photos can be of those late war German AA guns (of any type).

And the Wespe, AGAIN? Well, yes we've covered it before (twice), but our diminutive friend has the dubious distinction of being the most "after marketed" kit on the market today. That's worth talking about (hey, at least it's not on the cover...).

We also recently had somewhat unprecedented access to a partially disassembled Wespe being restored in Germany. Check it out.

Back to the future

I also wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about two new projects we've been working on. Some of you may already know about the upcoming Sherman book (some of you actually have ordered it already!). As we go to press on this issue we are nearing completion on the Sherman project. This is being authored by Pete Harlem, famous in song and story, and also the guy responsible for the lion's share of our Sherman articles (O.K. all of them). The book is based around the series that first appeared in MMiR, but Pete has overhauled and updated all the material and added two new sections. In addition, there are 14 built-up and detailed Sherman models showcasing dozens of available products. Also included are an extensive "kit bibliography" of available products with our comments and an even more extensive bibliography of Sherman references. This is all capped off by a photo section illustrating many of the details mentioned in the text and references. Whew!

Pete is itching to do at least two more on the Sherman as, due to the immense size of the subject, he was forced to limit his coverage to U.S. gun tanks only. We need to keep this guy healthy...

If the format is successful (and I think it will be), several more Modeler's Guides will follow on various subject vehicles. The next Modeler's Guide title probably will be available in the first half of 1998. I'm not telling what the subject will be, but I can say it will be German... Any follow-up to the Sherman will unfortunately be later.

Our second new product coming up is tentatively titled *The Armor Modelers Guide to the Universe* and it is our attempt to offer a comprehensive guide book to the world of 1/35th scale armor modeling. It was originally inspired by the Japanese book "PanzerFile," but it will have fewer photos in favor of far more extensive product listings. As of this writing we have well over 3,000 products documented and we have set the cut off at October 15th of 1997. The information is organized by armored vehicles and accessories, but if space permits it also will include lists of figures, too. A product number is listed for each item, the item name, its price, a materials code (a key is printed at the top of each page for easy reference) and a brief description of the item. We've included older information on some out of production kits, because I know you guys love to collect (you don't have to build it; you just have to buy it).

It will include product photos on most of the pages and also will feature a ton of other (hopefully) useful information, like the names and addresses of the world's armor museums, club info, manufacturer data, lists of reference books, an index or two, and even a list of films featuring tanks.

If the concept of this takes off, then we will republish it at the end of each year to reflect the current releases and items that have been discontinued.

O.K., so dig in and enjoy the fruits of all our hard work. I'm going home to take a nap...

—Pat Stansell

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The Mail Sack

Action Jackson

I'm looking for a company that makes a kit or a conversion of a M-7 Priest. Also I would like to know if those M-36 conversion kits from MB Models or Commander Series are just hull conversions or do they have the turret and main gun? Is there any new word if Tamiya is going to re-release their kits of the M-10 or M-36?

—Jake Vreugdenhil
mailto:jake@future.net

As far as we know the Italeri kit is still in stock around the country, although it is officially out of production. It may pop back up on their re release list at some point (many kits are). Look for kit number 0206.

As far as the MB and Commanders kits, both are hull conversions for the M36B2 kit from Italeri.

Rumors have been flying about an M10 from Tamiya for some time. This would be an all new kit. We feel it is a very strong possibility, but basically it doesn't exist until we get a stock number. Think 1998.

✉

Even Madder Max

Once again a great job on MMiR No. 13! I enjoyed the article on "Mad Max" and would like to share some information with you on these vehicles.

As was stated in your article, the two 10.5cm K18 auf Pz. (Sfl) IVa served with schwere Panzerjäger Abteilung 521 which was a "Heerestruppen" (independent army unit) formation which could be attached to a Division or formation as required. Although attached to 3rd Pz. Div., schwere Panzerjäger Abteilung 521 had its own unit insignia which consisted of a white "Jägermeister" emblem. The picture (plate 330) in *Encyclopedia of German Tanks of World War Two* was printed too light. A better quality example of this same photo appears on page 179 of the book *Der Russlandkrieg* by Paul Carell, Verlag Ullstein, copyright 1967 and the "Jägermeister" emblem can be clearly seen.



I also have two period photos taken by a German soldier showing one of these two vehicles. (These will appear in an upcoming book) and in both photos the "Jägermeister" emblem can clearly be seen. I don't have these photos readily at hand but if you visit our web site (Iron Triangle Productions) at <http://www.hic.net/itp> and go to ITP Photo Gallery, the first photo is of a Heeres Pz.Abw. Abt. 521 4.7cm Panzerjäger and an excellent example of the unit emblem appears painted on the gun shield.

I hope this information will be of help. By the way I purchased my copy of Aero series No. 4 brand new in 1967. I don't think this makes me a "Prince among geeks" but rather "An OLD GEEK." Keep up the great work and I love your rag!

—Michael H. Pruett

✉

Gary never sleeps

I just wanted to say thank you for publishing my letter concerning the Porsche VK4501, in the last issue!

My new question is about a diorama I want to build. It is to take place in the Ardennes forest, during the snows of December. I want to use a early production Tiger I. Preferably with the panzer gray (for contrast against the snow with a whitewashed snow camouflage).

Were there any such Tigers in action then? I have found what I believe to be a photo of such from the Schwere Panzer Abteilung 301. Could you help in this matter? If so, how about a Company number or tank number, or even point me in the direction.

—Gary Glover

Hmmm... Gary makes it tough, doesn't he? Well, you've got it pretty much right. The Tigers in question were part of the Schwere Panzer Abteilung (FKL) 301. Now, note that "FKL" stands for Funklenk which essentially means "radio controlled." The 301 had been designed as a command unit for the little Sprengladungstäger B IV remote control demolition vehicles.

However, it appears that they had little chance to use all their cool toys. According to Jentz' Tiger I & II: Combat Tactics, their constant contact with opposing forces left them in use as a conventional Schwere Panzer Abteilung throughout the fall and winter of 1944.

We've seen the photo of this Tiger at the Bulge and it looks to be an early model with the drum cupola. If you look closely at the photo, you'll notice at least one hull top mounted headlight on the left side—an early feature from '43. A few of the 301's Tigers were equipped with additional radio sets for use with the B IV's. These probably were configured like a standard command version with the extra antennae on the hull and turret.

Although the tank appears dark in the photo, it's extremely unlikely that it's dark gray. The contrast with the snow is the culprit. Tigers at this time were the standard three tone scheme.

Including the B IV might make your diorama even more interesting. When not in use they were towed by the Tigers. Azimut of France makes a nice kit of the B IV, kit number 35035. It's the Ausf. B version, too, which makes a little more historical sense for your scene.

✉

Hey, at least they got it

Imagine my surprise and delight to learn of the publication in MMiR of a review of the book *Commanding the Red Army's Sherman Tanks!* A correspondent of mine from Sweden informed me of the fact through e-mail, and this weekend I purchased two copies of your publication at a Kansas City hobby store. This morning I mailed one of these copies to Colonel Loza in Moscow. Your review was both positive and perceptive.

It's a small point, but I want to correct one mistaken impression of the reviewer. The gifts of

alcohol and other items that were found in the tank upon receipt in the unit were placed there by American workers who either manufactured the tanks or prepared them for overseas shipment. My research indicates that the majority of these tanks were produced in the Grand Blanc Tank Arsenal in Michigan, which was managed by Fisher Body.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to translate and edit Colonel Loza's manuscript. His work truly is breaking new ground in the field of World War II memoirs. Colonel Loza has produced another manuscript, which I also translated and submitted to the University of Nebraska Press in final form (354 double-spaced pages) this week. This second manuscript has additional Sherman tank stories, plus accounts of the employment of the Matilda tank, and many other anecdotes about life and combat in the Red Army on the Eastern Front. His many references to American equipment and supplies shed new light on the importance of Lend-Lease to the Soviet war effort.

I have passed a copy of your review to my publisher, and instructed them to place your name on the list to receive a free review copy of the next book, which now bears the provisional title *Fighting for the Soviet Motherland: Recollections From the Eastern Front*. This new Loza book should appear in 12 to 18 months.

Thank you again for your interest in Colonel Loza and his writings.

—James F. Gebhardt

Thanks for that correction Mr. Gebhardt! "Unloaded" may have been a typo as some of us around here got the impression that it may have been the folks who loaded the tanks that did the gift giving. But it is amazing to see that the gifts remained intact for the entire journey. We wonder what kind of vodka it was?

Great work and please thank Colonel Loza for his recollections.

✉

Color my world

Regarding your readers question in Vol. 11 & 12 about not receiving two sets of the E8/E9 on each E sprue, the kit I purchased has them. This kit was purchased in Elmhurst, IL, a Chicago Suburb.

Regarding the editorial "Color Issue." Don't those nit-picky types get it? Come on get a life, this is a hobby. No batch of paint is ever made exactly the same. The government creates paint specifications to keep colors uniform, not exactly the same. Paint varies from batch-to-batch and from manufacturer to manufacturer. Besides any paint on any vehicle weathers and fades. Fades? How? From the Sun! Sun bleaches and fades paint, especially on the tops of vehicles more than sides and the bottom. Paint also fades from atmospheric oxidation. Sooooooo, if you really want to be some what true to life in applying colors, fade them by adding white or the appropriate color to lighten (fade) them to be truer to scale.

There is a formula for creating scale effect paint colors, here it is: The percentage is half of the scale. For 1/35 you divide 35 by 2 which equals 17.5, round it up to 18. The 18 is the percentage of white or lightening color added to the basic color. If you are applying Olive Drab, add 18% white to lighten (fade). If you measured 100 drops of O.D., you would add 18 drops of white, then mix. However, if you're modeling a vehicle from the Pacific campaign that has been in the field for some time, there will be more fading due to ol' Sol.

(more on next page)

Too many IPMS and "Serious Modelers" get too involved with this and adding every nut, rivet bolt, and stitch, to "get it exactly right." They drop off the deep end, taking all of the fun out of the hobby. We do this for fun, pleasure and relaxation, and some historical understanding. I am the President of the Butch O'Hare IPMS Chapter in Downers Grove, and when members of our club start to become too serious and bully the other members, we advise them to "back-off" or join another club. I thought we were all in this for fun, not ego feeding.

By-the-way Pat, did anyone ever tell you, "You look just like Ronald Reagan." Nice picture buddy, keep up the good work on this magazine. Keep the sense of humor flowing throughout.

—Steve Lipke

You know Steve, wars have been fought over less serious subjects than the color of a model or the level of fanaticism in a hobby. Can't we all just get along?



Stop poking those pigs please

I am referring to a letter in #9 by Steve Litel. He hits the nail right on the head about Israeli armor. I also would like to see more Israeli armor like Ti-67 and M109A3 (how about it Italeri, you're 3/4 there). I know there are conversion kits, but my limited budget does not allow for spending \$30.00-\$50.00 for a kit and an additional \$50.00-\$100.00 to convert. I am not a contest builder. I build for fun and relaxation. I have for the last 62 years, but I would still like to make the armor correctly.

DML covers German armor very well but it does little for U.S., British, Japanese and Russian (T-34s, SU100s). It is amazing the Sherman was produced in such large quantities but there are few variations out. I would like to see more armor with mine clearing devices, dozer blades and wading gear.

I have a complaint with DML and it is their stainless photo etch. My old hands and eyes have enough problems with small parts, but trying to bend stainless... forget it. I just finished the DML StuG III kit 6009, which still had the plastic supports for the antenna rails so I could use them and not have to try and bend metal. Why not have both parts in the kit to give builders this choice?

One more complaint about the box top showing Zimmerit and tow cables, but inside is a different world. This is a little like buying a pig in a poke. But with all the above complaints, today's kits are a hell of a lot better than the old days.

Well, enough bull. Love the magazine and I am looking forward to many more years of building armor.

—Robert W. Marshall

O.K., we hear ya. Apparently so does DML. See the Short Takes section for more dope on their new T-34s. Given their habit of doing variants, we could be in for some wild Russian fun. Tamiya is also about to pony up with its impending Cromwell.

For those of you out there who still have trouble with that tough shiny photo-etch, try heating it with a candle, then cooling it in a bit of water. Do this a couple of times and it'll bend quite easily.

Interestingly, Academy put both link-to-

link and band type tracks in its M18. Perhaps this was to accommodate folks like Mr. Marshall who sometimes get tired of all the "fiddly bits."

Correctamundo

Bill Miley of Chesapeake Model Designs kinda wanted us to know that we royally f'd up one aspect of his Beobachtung Panther conversion. It seems (nervous laughter) that the forward ventilator housing is not where the periscope goes after all! How about that? It seemed like a good idea at the time... Those responsible have been forced to watch "Charles in Charge" reruns for one month.



This actually goes here.



Got a problem with any of this?

Send those comments to: Mail Sack, Military Miniatures in Review or discuss complaints, problems, wisecracks, etc. via the Internet. Find us at the handle: MMIR35701@aol.com

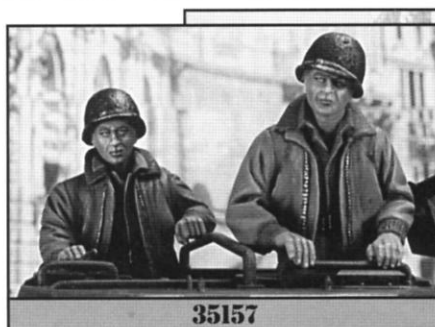
Letters are sometimes edited for brevity, grammar, spelling, national security concerns and other stuff.

We sincerely regret that we rarely, if ever, are able to personally enter into correspondence with our readers.

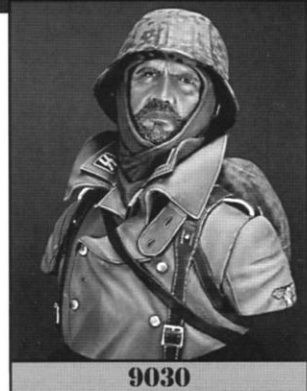
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The Year in Preview



Hang on to your hats kiddies. The armor manufacturers from around the world are alive and kicking and show no signs of stopping. The following report incorporates information gathered from both the Chicago RCHTA show and Euro Militaire. Grab a seat and dig in!

Aber

Doesn't ring a bell? It will. We were first introduced to this producer of photo-etched brass last spring from some of our friends in the Detroit area. Seems that the North American importer is located in Ontario, Canada and he occasionally makes it over the river to promote the line at regional shows.

There currently are in excess of 75 sheets in the line and almost all are really something special. For example, their sheets for the Mirage line of Polish tanks include complete fenders and most of their sets include more than one sheet of brass. In many cases this extra sheet is a separate product, too (like the Browning MG sheet inside the Sherman set). This amounts to hundreds of parts in some of the packages.

The etching is very finely done. The German sets in the line are particularly elaborate. The

Panzer III screens are actually woven, like the real thing. Most of the sheets are either of German or of Polish subjects right now (you gotta check out the Panzer III fender set), but many more are promised.

Also in the line are a series of tread plates in various patterns and sizes.

The Aber catalog contains representational artwork of all the products and even a small sample set of parts. Watch out for these guys.

The North American representative is Air Connection at 6389 Chaumont Circle, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 2M7 Canada. Phone: 905-826-7460, fax: 905-826-6764.

Accurate Armour

Just a ton of stuff from the Glaswegian resin merchants. The **Centurion** line is goin' with the Mark 1 version with the 17 pounder. Kit number K70. UK retail \$72.50. The next in line is an interesting version of the "Operation Sentry" A41 variant. Operation Sentry was the rough British equivalent of the Zebra Mission and its purpose was to get as much of the newest hardware into the fray before the end of the war. The A41 is the prototype and differs in few major details. This also is \$72.50.

The near future promises a whole slew of great

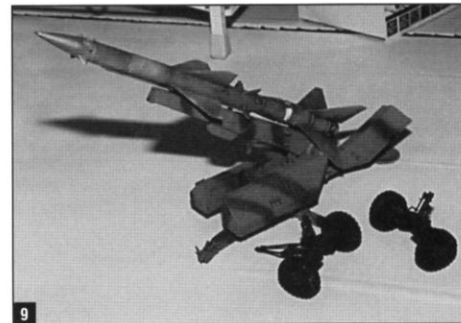
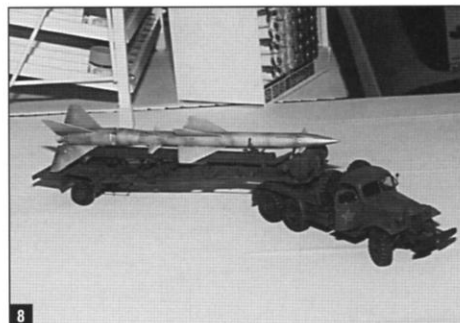
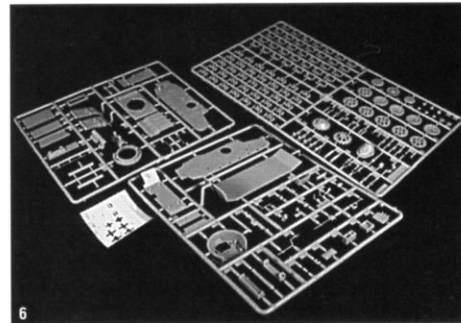
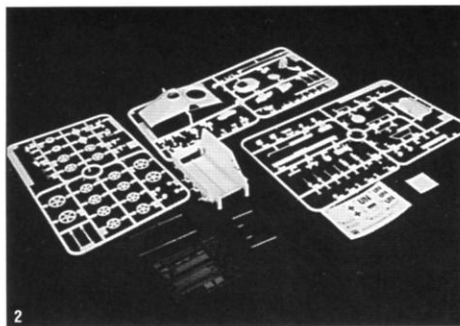
stuff. Up soon is the **17 Pounder Anti-Tank gun**. The master was on display and it's looking real good. Kit number G01. In keeping with this theme is a **Crusader Gun Tractor**, favorite towing buddy of the 17 pounder. This will be a conversion for the Italeri kit. Kit number C42.

Did someone say Crusader? Look for another conversion for the Italeri kit in C42, which will be the **Crusader AA Mk I with the Bofers 40mm gun**.

The **American T28/T95 Super heavy** is coming right along. The partially completed master pattern was on hand at the show. Can you say, wow? This will be kit number K98 when it pops up in the spring. C30 is a pleasantly elaborate conversion for the Academy/Minicraft Warrior. This creates the **MRV Repair & Recovery vehicle**.

Back in the full kit department things are really heating up. We got a **Conqueror ARV Mk II** coming up. This is the house moving recovery vehicle version of the tank with the same name. This should be out soon. Kit number KT105.

And we saved the best for last. At Euro, in master form, looking massive and beautiful, was none other than the **Faun Elephant Tank Transporter**. This is the gigantic NATO truck and



trailer combination currently in use by the Bundeswehr. It is a stunning looking model. It doesn't look too far from being done, either. When it is, look for item number KT106.

All of the "coming soon" items are price TBA.

AA has a new line of products called **Fortress '44** and it's a cool selection of mines, obstacles and other invasion beach gear designed to make things difficult for your 1/35th scale Allies. Each product comes packaged with plenty of pieces (anywhere from 5 to 20) to flesh out any scene.

AFV Club

Not too much new here, but all the latest plastic was built up and on display at Chicago. The M18 looks fine indeed with interior parts, brass and a turned aluminum barrel. This item should be out by the time you read this. Look for item 3515.

The Weisels are coming! These two little styrene varmints are sneaking up on us. Both are very complex kits and man are they tiny. The kit only measures about three inches. It's got some keen features like photo etched drive sprockets and a very delicately molded suspension system. This is number 35S03 and should also be hitting the shelves soon at around \$29.98. The follow-up is the Weisel TOW and it should be much the same kit with the number 3574.

The kit on display at the show was a Taiwanese release and printed on the box side were two new releases in the form of **workable Stuart tracks**. Looks like the rubber block version and the steel cleat set. The ROC Army is known to have used the M5, so... We'll keep you posted.

Look for a review of the Weisel in issue #15.

Aires

A couple of new items from this line distributed by our friends at Eduard. A3011 is a **Kübelwagen Holgaz** conversion for either the Tamiya or the Hasegawa Kübel, resin wood is included, too! A3013 is a very exciting M31 Tank Recovery Vehicle conversion for the Tamiya Lee.

Both kits should be available by year's end. Prices TBA.

Alan

These guys sort of snuck up on us with their new release of the **Panzer I F** model. This is the weird miniature German heavy tank. The kit is pretty respectable, it's crisply molded and it even has hollow molded track horns. This is out now, so look for it as stock number 007. No word on U.S. retail, but their kits are always very reasonable.

DML has done some fun things with the Alan kits in their Imperial Series line, so keep an eye out for a possible second version.

Andrea

Although they don't offer any 1/35th scale items, Andrea does now offer a very intriguing line of **acrylic paints**. What we like is that they come in small dropper type bottles with secure caps. There is a range of 45 colors which includes matte and gloss varnish and gloss medium.

They'll be hard to find, but they're worth looking for. Check with Red Lancers or Andrea direct at Andrea SL, Maestro Zudaire s/n, Los Negrals, Villalba, 28409 Madrid, Spain. Fax: 34-1 8518156. And don't forget www.ctv.es/~andrea_minisatures

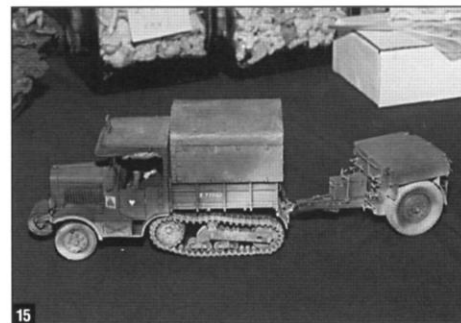
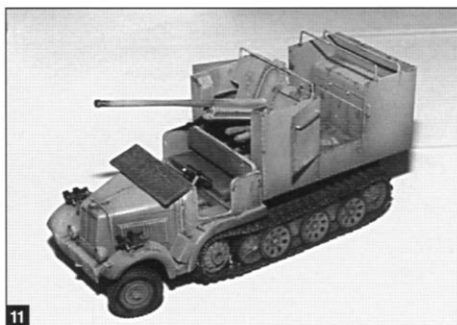
Azimut

These guys seem to be getting in the habit of doing something spectacular every so often. This fall is no exception. Our French friends have gone Soviet on us with their new **SA-2 Guideline Sam Missile**. This includes the tractor, trailer and the missile. In France this is boxed with the launcher, a second missile and the two limbers for the launcher. Some of the parts also are available as three separate kits. This thing is really something. No word on if it will be offered all together or separately in the States. The stock number for the "system" is 10002 and the price is TBA.

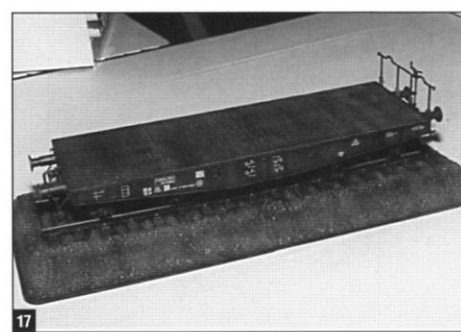
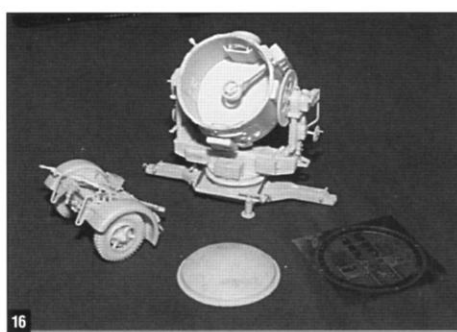
Also in the pipeline is a **Sdkfz 6/2 half-track "Dana."** We had seen the personnel version of this last year, but this the is Afrika Korps version with the captured gun on the back. The kit is very spiff, with large photo-etched panels for the rear armor. This kit has never been done in any form so it's a must have. Stock number is 35008 and the U.S. retail is TBA.

Item number 35061 is the **Lynx Scout Car**. This is essentially the Canadian version of the British Dingo. Kind of wacky it is, sitting way up on a Ford chassis. Price TBA.

In the "how come no one ever thought of that before" department, comes two conversions for the Italeri Katuska rocket launcher. You may not know this, but the kit done by Italeri some years ago was based on a modern truck, not the Studebaker or GMC as a proper wartime vehicle should have been. Azimut figured out that a small box of wheels and parts could create two versions of the ZIL 157 truck. We have 35160, **ZIL 157 Cargo** and 35161, **ZIL 157 V Tractor**. This latter item was used as a prime



1. The AFV Club Weisel.
2. Parts for same.
3. The Weisel TOW version.
4. The AFV Club M18.
5. The Alan Panzer I F.
6. De sprues for the Alan kit.
7. Andrea's line of acrylics.
8. The Azimut SAM-2 tractor and trailer combo.
9. Azimut's SAM-2 launcher.
10. The Azimut ERC 90.
11. The Sdkfz. 6/2 "DANA."
12. Cromwell's SA-6 "Guideline."
13. Custom Dio's Italian Villa, Part 1.
14. The Villa, Part 2.
15. Somua half-track and trailer from DES.
16. DES' German WWII searchlight.
17. Tiger Railcar and tracks from DML.



mover for all kinds of neat stuff (see Pitroad, below). Retail on both is TBA.

On display at Chicago was a marvelous looking little **ERC 90 Sagaie** six wheeled armored car. It was particularly cool looking in its all white UN camo. This is stock number 35081 and the price is TBA.

Tell your hobby shop to contact The Right Stuff distributors in the U.S. for any part of the Azimut line. For address info on same, see their ad on page 36.

Cromwell

Quite a load of goodies from those of the Cromwellian type. CK22 is that old **M5 High Speed Tractor**. Finally! This is the tractor with the Stuartish suspension that towed the 155mm howitzer. UK retail \$45.00. CK43 is a **Matador British command truck**. Price on this one is TBA. CK68 is the **Vickers MkVI AA Mk2 tank**, while CK70 is the Mk1 version. These are the anti-aircraft versions of the famous British light tank and both include internal details for \$48.00 each.

CK77 shifts gears into the armored car arena with the **Morris Recce Mk11 armored car** (even though the real thing is ugly). It will include extensive interior detail for \$45.00.

Cromwell will begin producing several versions of the **British Ferret armored car** beginning with the Mk1 version. This also will include a complete interior. Price is TBA. Four additional versions are planned: Ferret Mk 1/2; Ferret Mk 2/2; Ferret Mk 4 and Ferret Mk 5. All the prices on these releases are TBA.

CA65 is an **Afrika Korps head set** that contains six heads for \$3.75. CA66 is the **Stuart 3 bar**

type cleat track for \$8.50. More of this stuff in the form of **Stuart Solid Wheels** for \$4.75 and a **Stuart Solid Sprocket** for \$3.75.

CA69 is **Frontal Armour for the DML Panzer IV J** for \$3.50, while CA70 is a **Mantlet for DML Maus or E-100**, \$4.50. This is a resin replacement mantlet. CA71, **Schmal Turm conversion for DML Panzer IV J**, makes up the proposed variant of the German workhorse for \$25.50.

"I'm in the mood for Soviet... simply because their commies..." Can you say **SA-6 Gainful SAM**? Yesiree Bob, this is an extensive conversion for the DML ZSU-23 kit. It involves slicing the hull in half, but Cromwell thoughtfully provides a resin spacer that conforms to the shape of the hull. The upper hull is a resin wonder and it is molded in their new white resin. It's pretty simple up to that point. The triple launcher is where all the work is. The built up kit is a stunner and lovers of Soviet stuff are basically going to freak out over this one (we sure did). This is stock number C80 and the UK retail is a hefty \$54.00.

CA79 is a very smart conversion for the Tamiya JS3 kit in the form of an **ISU 152 conversion**. This was a for-real vehicle and something different to boot. Retail is TBA.

It's not known which of the above products will be brought in by Cromwell's U.S. importer, Marco Polo. But if a particular item interests you, drop them a line, as they seem to lean toward the more popular items.

Custom Dioramics

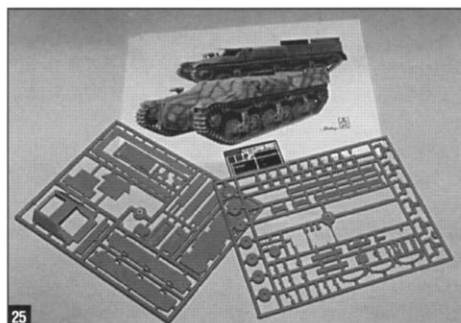
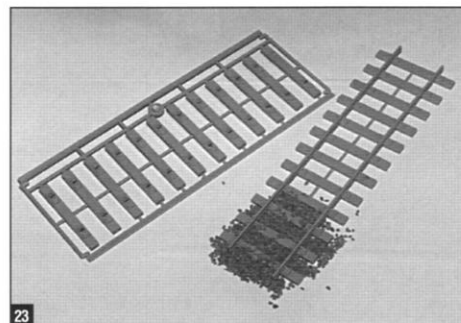
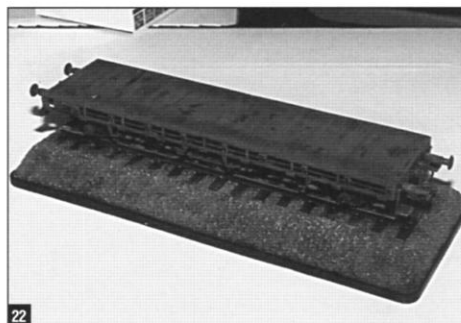
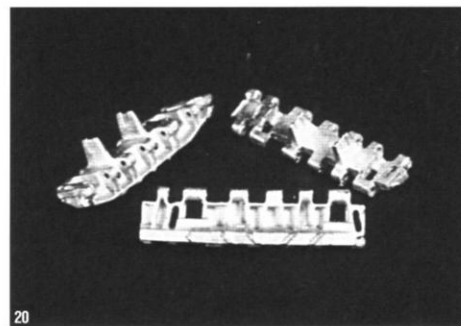
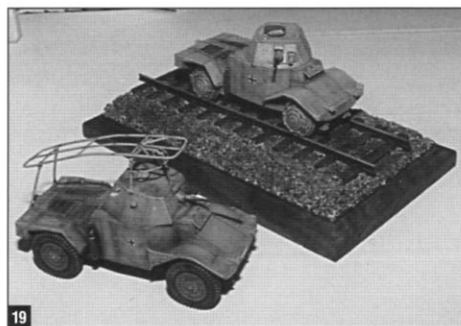
This is Custom Dios release list for the late

summer through this fall. CD-127, **Brown Bricks** is a re-release of their brown brick. \$6.95. CD-149, **Italian Country Villa**, is the first of a 3-part set, which may be combined into one large dio, or used separately. This is the main house with a large outside staircase and a tile roof. Plenty of resin included for \$17.95. CD-226, **Printed Red Brick Sheet** is a sheet of printed paper with a red brick pattern printed on self-stick paper. This would be great for detailing the interior of a building. Retail \$4.95. CD-150, **Italian Stable** is the second piece of the Italian set and it is a beautifully detailed stable with a complete roof. Both these kits are undamaged full buildings and include several resin parts. The Stable is \$16.95. CD-35003, **German Assault Raft** is the rubber raft used by German assault troops in crossing small streams and rivers. It will hold 4 to 5 troops plus their gear. It's molded in resin for \$10.95. CD-8005 is a **German Heavy MG Concrete Bunker** in 1/76-1/87 scale. It has beautiful concrete detail and is cast in one-piece ceramic for \$10.50. CD-151, **Italian Barn** is another full building, including tiled roof and resin parts. It's designed to be used in combination with CD-149 and CD-150 or by itself. More exquisite brickwork detail for a mere \$16.95. CD-335 **North Africa/Mid-East Water Jugs and Food Containers**, is a set of 25 water jugs, food bowls and containers in various shapes and sizes molded in resin for \$10.95.

All of the above items are available right now or very soon. For more information see their ad in this issue.

DES Kit

Never a dull moment when DES is in the house.



New from them is 35045, **Artillery Trailer for the 155mm gun** (their kit number 35057). This is a complete kit in resin and the retail is 250ff (around fifty bucks or so). To go along with (or before) is a **Somua MCG4 (1930/45) half-track**. This is what towed the above trailer. List on this is 400ff.

For you Teutonic types there is a very exciting **150cm Sw.37 Sd Anh 104 Searchlight**. This is the big ass German deal and it is complete with its towing trailer. Also 400ff.

DES products are available through Red Lancers and Squadron Mail Order. The U.S. prices are generally equal to the conversion rate in dollars, but prior checking is a must.

Dragon

The big news at Chicago this year was the announcement and showing of the all new **T-34/85** kit. Now listen up: this is an all new kit, not some Eastern block disaster. DML went back to the drawing board and brought this one up completely from scratch. It's dimensionally correct and contains absolutely no motorization holes! One of the really nifty features is the interior housings for the Christy suspension. These correspond to arch shaped grooves in the outer hull in which the road-wheel arms ride. Awesome dudes!

This version, stock number 6066 is a model 1944. Concurrent with its release is an **NVA version**, which is listed under their 'Nam series as 3318. Now, rumor has it that there will be at least four versions of the kit before they're through. So stay excited (check out the box top art on the T-34s on the inside front cover of this issue).

Many of the other items on display had already been announced such as the **Tiger Heavy rail car**. This was our first opportunity to check this out and it's pretty cool looking. They had several of the new armored rail cars out and these were mounted on sections of the new **DML rail bed and tracks**. This is a highly useful system that consists of several ties and two rails which mount into a styrene bed section. There are two end caps provided to complete the piece or these can be left off to link with other sections. The seams can be easily disguised. Clever guys, those Dragon types.

Be prepared for some switching of certain products to the Shanghai line. The great part about this is that the price tends to crash when it occurs. Case in point is the **USMC M1A1 Abrams**. This actually has been slightly upgraded with the addition of deep wading trunks. The retail is still less than twenty-five dollars, too. This is stock number 3531.

The **"Easy Eight" Sherman** will be reissued under the Shanghai label with the same stock numbers, 6083 and 6811. Another version of the **Panzerbefehlswagen P204(f)** is up. This will be the rail running version of the French armored car. Stock number 9049, price TBA. There will also be a **rail version of the Ba-20**. This is stock number 9047 and it also is price TBA.

AND... we're looking at another **secret release** in the form of 6810. All we know is that it will be a Korean War subject due to the stock number.

We anticipate a good year in armor from DML, so stay tuned!

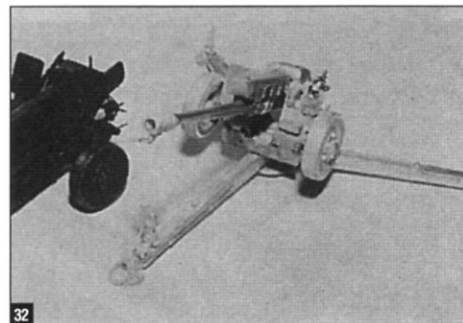
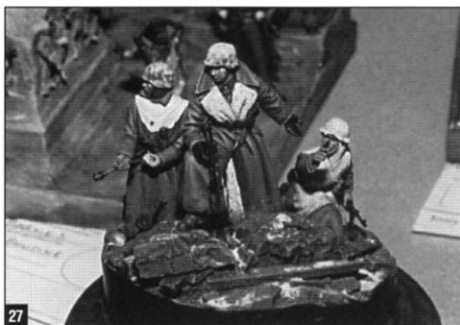
Eduard

Brass never sleeps. More from the busy boys

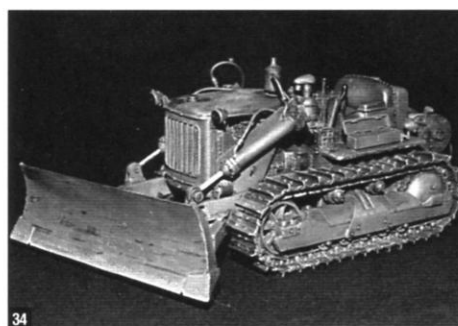
(and girls) at Eduard. 35-129, **M730A1 Chaparral** is a two sheet set for the AFV Club kit, \$11.99. 35-136 **Joseph Stalin III/IS-III**, is also two sheets for the Tamiya kit at \$14.99. 35-138, **JGSDF Type 90**, cranks out two frets for the Tamiya 90-san for \$19.99. 35-139 **M8 HMC** is much needed help for the old Tamiya kit. Two sheets which include drive sprockets for \$19.99. 35-140, **M-7 Priest** for the venerable Italeri kit. Two frets plus acetate gauges at \$19.99. 35-142, **German Floor (type I)** is the dot pattern seen on the fenders of Panzer IIIs. A 4 3/4 inch sheet for \$14.99. 35-143, **Daimler Mk.II** is for that old Tamiya kit now in re-release. One sheet and acetate gauges for \$14.99. 35-144, **German Floor (type II)** is the diamond cross-hatch pattern, same size as 142 for \$14.99. 35-145, **Panzer III ausf. L** is just in time for the Tamiya kit, two sheets at \$19.99. 35-146, **German Floor (type III)** is the 90 degree type tread seen on the fenders of Panzer IVs for \$11.99. 35-149, **Steel Runway Matting** is composed of four of the locking panels for \$11.99. 35-150, **VW Kübelwagen** another timely one for the Tamiya kit, one sheet and gauges for \$11.99. 35-151, **British Chieftain** serves up two elaborate sheets for the old Tamiya kit. \$19.99. 35-153, **Marder III Ausf. H** is two big sheets for the DML Grille (the 105 sig) for \$19.99.

In smaller 1/72 scale: 22-017, **BM-13 Katiusha** (\$4.99); 2-019 **SU-100** (\$11.99) and 22-018, **T-34/85** (\$11.99) are all for Co-operativa kits.

In more small scale news, Eduard is participating in something called the **"Atlantis Alliance."** This is a program that features literally hundreds of 1/76th and 1/87th scale kits from BW Models, Continental Model Supply and Permot. These



18. DML's handsome USMC Abrams.
19. Armored car duo from DML.
20. New Tiger II links from Friulmodellismo.
21. Ironside Panzerträgerwagen.
22. Ironside railcar IR029 (not in text).
23. Neato track sprues from Ironside.
24. Ironside Renault rocket launcher.
25. New Lorraine tractor from Ironside.
26. Jaguar's cool Berlin Street fighters.
27. The equally cool Stalingrad vignette.
28. "A Friend in Need," from Jaguar.
29. "1st Contact," from Jaguar.
30. Mini-Art's Hungarian Turan tank.
31. On-Tracks new SdKfz. 165/1.
32. Pitroad's Modern Russian 122mm Howitzer.
33. New Vanguard 23 on the Challenger 1.
34. Resicast's sweet little bulldozer.



companies offer an extensive range of resin, white metal or die cast items in the smaller scales. More information of the Atlantis Alliance can be found at <http://www.webruler.com/atlantisalliance>

For more information on Eduard, see their ad on page 11.

Elite

Elite is a small German company that specializes in Bundeswehr armor kits and conversions. There are about twenty three items in the line, so there's a bit too much to list here, but let us give you a few highlights.

Elite does a full resin kit of the **Pionierpanzer 2**. This is that wacky engineering vehicle with the two scooper buckets based on the Leopard 1. Stock number 3508. They also do the **Bergepanzer 2A2**, which is also based on the Leopard 1. Stock number 3510.

Future releases include such tasty bits as the **M51 recovery vehicle** (more popularly seen in USMC service) as used by the Bundeswehr, the **Leopard 2 recovery vehicle "Buffalo"** and the **Leopard 1 bridge layer "Beaver."** Stock number on the M51 is 3513, but the others are TBA.

Pricing is only in Marks, but at the current rate of exchange we're talking around a hundred dollars for one of the full kits. There is no U.S. distributor as of yet, so direct mail is your only option. Contact them at Militärmodellbau, Hubert Mör, Eichgasse 13, 52393 Hürtgenwald. Telephone: 0 24 29 20 86.

Friulmodellismo

Friul continues revising their track line to the new pinned system. Still carrying their old stock numbers are the **early Hetzer** (ATL-15) and **early**

Tiger sets (ATL-25). Up new are the following: ATL-35, **Late Hetzer**; ATL-36, **Panzer II L Luchs** (for the soon to be released CMK kit) and ATL-37, **Tiger II (late single link type)**.

All the tracks retail for \$39.95 and are available through CMD in the U.S. and S&D Model Accessories in Canada. For full address info, see their ad elsewhere in this mag.

Ironside

As you may know, this is the injection molded multi-media line of Azimut and they have been going rail happy as of late. This all started with their K5 railroad gun of a few years back. They have followed this with several different types of cars and other interesting rail related accessories. Their release list in this area continues to be aggressive, in spite of sharing a U.S. distributor with DML who is also beginning to dabble in the same subject.

On display in Chicago was a **Panzerträgerwagen rail car**. This is a tank carrier that allows the tank to roll off quickly. It fits either one of the small Renaults or the 38t (not included). The stock number is IR050 and the U.S. retail is TBA. IR039 will be **Closed Car Type G10**, a type of box car. Price TBA. IR051 is a bit of a nifty little idea. This is a **set of railway tracks and ties**. What is nifty about it is that the ties actually are attached by a thin strip of styrene that is hidden when the road bed is added. This ensures the proper spacing of the ties and allows for a variety of road bed situations. The two rails provided simply slide into the ties. Each sprue also contains a concrete telegraph pole, too. The price is also TBA.

In non-rail related items we have a **28cm s. WUR. 40 auf RENAULT UE**. This is the little Renault tractor with a four bank German rocket launcher on the back end. This is a complete kit and the price is still TBA.

The last item is IR052, **Lorraine TRC 37 L Schlepper**. This is the famous French tractor used by the Germans as an SPG mount. The Ironside kit will be released initially as the plain 'ol French tractor version. They have put a lot of research into this model in an effort to make it the most accurate yet. They plan to do just about every variant in the line, so this should be worth anticipating.

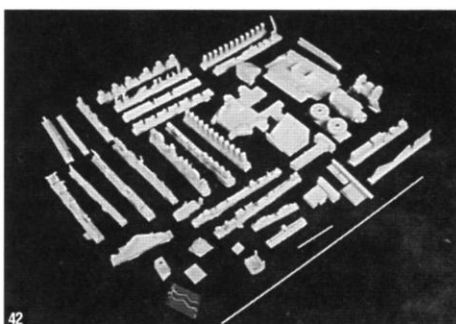
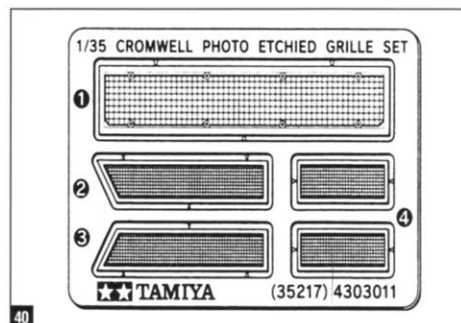
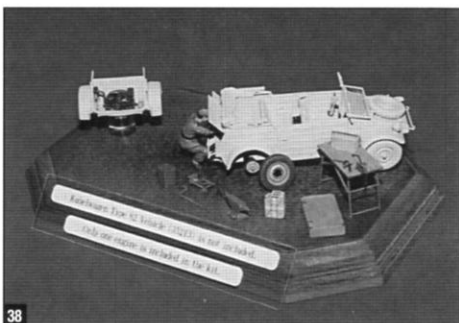
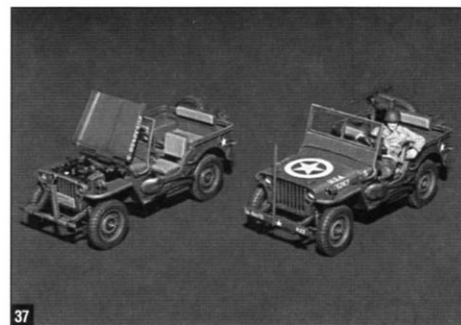
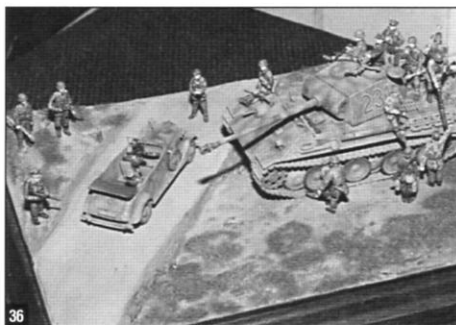
FYI, Ironside now uses a more traditional molding and tooling process for its injection stuff. Most of the current items and all future releases will be of this process. The old white plastic stuff is slowing being phased out.

For information on any of the Ironside and Azimut items, hobby shops should check out the Right Stuff distributors and retail customers should check out Legends Toys and Hobbies. Both have ads appearing in this issue.

Jaguar

As usual, there's so much from these guys it's tough to keep up. They had new items on display at both Euro and Chicago. We must admit to not snagging stock numbers on all the items, but we will tempt you with photos and descriptions.

The first item is a rather large damaged archway piece, which is completely molded in resin. Official title of this is **Berlin Street Fighters**. Two over coated Nazis are provided to cautiously



35. The SMA German V8 Saloon Staff Car.
36. Some of the 1/76th scale fun from SMA.
37. A couple of the new Tamiya jeeps.
38. The Kübelwagen accessory set from Tamiya.
39. Tamiya's Cromwell will look something like this.
40. Photo-etched screens, an accessory for the Cromwell.
41. Italeri's RSO/Pak 40 combo, No. #355 (not listed).
42. Tank Workshop's Panzer III L interior.

peer around the corner. The presentation of this is really something. We've been told that the arch is purposely big enough to shelter a Hetzer. Very creative. The stock number here is 63608 and the retail will be \$59.98.

An unidentified piece is a three figure **Stalingrad vignette** showing three die hard types knee deep in brick rubble. Again, stunning presentation and a real instant winner. Price and stock number is TBA.

Some of the more identifiable pieces are: 63044, **German Officers**, a two figure set; 63050, **A Friend in Need**, another two figure set of a German soldier leading a blinded comrade with a winter theme; and 63055, **1st Contact**, two German soldiers in summer dress chatting with a local poochy.

As always, there will be plenty of surprises and other "Good Stuff" from Jaguar throughout the year, so don't doze off.

Mini-Art Studios

Mini Art, from Hong Kong, had a number of sweet items bopping around at Euro. Going with that whole Axis theme are versions of the **Hungarian Turan** and the **Zyirni**, which are the tank and the assault gun, respectively. The Turan was built up at the show and it's looking good. It is stock number MA3529 and the listed retail is 1000 Hong Kong dollars, which is around \$130.00 U.S. The kit comes with three turrets to build the different versions.

The Zyirni is due out soon and a partial set of parts was on hand. This is stock number MA3546 and the retail should also be around \$125.00.

Also new for the show were two versions of the little Fiat Italian tankette. The first, MA3518A, is the **Fiat Ansaldo CV-33/35** and the second, MA3518B is the **Fiat Ansaldo CV-33/35 "Lance Flame."** The first kit contains parts for the Hungarian, Chinese and Italian versions and the second is the flamethrower variant. Both are priced at 880 HK dollars. We grabbed these for review, so look for them in a future issue.

Several T-34 items are now being produced. Among them are a **T-34/85 1944/45 turret** (MAC3504) and a **T-34/85 laminate turret** (MAC3507).

If you thought the Mini-Art **Karl Morser** was a rumor, it's not. It may be very hard to get, but it's a real kit. The stock number is MASP3501 and the retail is approximately \$300.00.

Mini-Art's release list is a long one. Way too long to list here, but we can give you a brief glimpse. Many of the older items, such as the **Hetzer update** set and the **Heuschrecke SPG** are being reworked. There is a fair amount of British and German stuff and a few more Axis items, like the **Nemrod AA tank** (MA3545).

All told, there were about a hundred items listed as TBA, so it'll pay to keep a wary eye on these dudes.

MMD in the U.S. carries the line, but not all of it may be available at all times.

For a catalog of products, try writing to Mini-Art Studios, P.O. Box 88215, Shamshuipo Post Office, Shamshuipo, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Fax: 852-023-306-4066.

ModelKasten

MK is coming right along. New in the line of

workable link-to-link are: SK-32, **Panzer I**; SK-32M, **Opel Maultier**; and SK-33, **RSO**.

The SK-32M set has a few less links than the earlier set, as the tracks for both are the same. SK-33 is for the Italeri kits and is timed just right for the new Italeri RSO/Pak 40 combo.

Check with your favorite MK dealer for pricing and availability.

On Track Model, Co.

On Track, maker of excellent resin kits of German oddball armor, will not rest until you've been thrilled half to death. Brand new is the **German Self-propelled Howitzer SdKfz. 165/1**. This was the shorter version of the Panzer IV chassis with a 105 howitzer in an open topped turret. This is another all resin kit with a full interior for around \$120 U.S. retail. Stock number 35003.

Their next kit is rumored to be the **12.8cm Panzer selbstfahrlafette V SPG**. This is the German 12.8cm gun built on the Tiger VK3001 (H) prototype chassis. Two of these things did see some action and a picture has popped up of one in a ordnance yard sometime after the war.

These kits can be obtained through R&J Enterprises which advertises in this very magazine.

Osprey

The Osprey New Vanguard series cooks right along with at least one more title for 1997 Due out yet this year is the New Vanguard 23, **Challenger MBT 1982-96**. This is the complete story of the development of the tank including good dope on its deployment in Bosnia. This is due out any day now.

In May of 1998 we'll see **Leopard 2 MBT**. This

will be New Vanguard 24 and it will tell the story of your favorite modern German cat.

Pitroad

Remember them? They make exquisite white metal kits of various artillery pieces, both modern and WWII. They also produce a highly intriguing range of JGSDF stuff, but we won't go there right now.

Their newest is the **Modern Russian 122mm D-30 Howitzer**. This is a weird looking job with a collapsible trail. This is kit number GF-028 and it retails for ¥118,000 or about \$98.00. And you were wondering what to tow with those Azimut ZIL trucks?

We've seen this and it is quite worthy. Pitroad has no U.S. distributor, but the kits can be obtained through Hobbylink Japan. See their ad elsewhere in this rag for complete info.

Resicast

Resicast had their new **Bulldozer** on display for the first time at Euro. We have this to say: YEE-HAA! It's neat, man. Official nomenclature: Dozer D7, hydraulic blade, UK version. Now, we're not sure of the "UK" thing, as we always thought these were only U.S. made. Anyway—the kit is terrific and it retails for £68.00 (around \$115.00). The stock number is 35.142. Future variations are 35.143, **Dozer, D7, Armoured hydraulic blade** (the cab is armored), UK version and 35.144, **Dozer, D7, Le Tourneau blade, U.S. version**. Again we'll sort out the versions for you, but it appears that the armored version was the one customized by the British and we know the U.S. version to be the one with the overhead lifted blade. Cool, cool, cool.

Future releases for Resicast are a **Bedford QLT** (35.145), a **Ram Kangaroo & Crew** (35.146) and a **Ram Wasp flame-thrower** (35.147).

Look for Resicast kits at Red Lancers.

Scale Model Accessories

Always something new from SMA. Unseen until Euro was the **German Ford V8 Saloon Staff Car**. SMAV 132 is a resin and white metal kit for \$32.00.

A very complete set of **dry transfers for the new Tamiya GMC truck** was another new item from Euro. It measures about 3 by 4 inches and it includes a variety of markings. This is stock number SMAV 046 and the price is \$3.50.

There also were several new items in the 1/76th scale range and these include some great looking small diorama ideas.

Contact Squadron Signal Mail Order for information on the SMA line in the U.S.

Tamiya

By now you know about Tamiya's big news and that's the **British Cromwell tank**. This is the very latest so far from the Big T. We think the stock number is 35221, but the retail price is still a secret. Going in reverse order is the **U.S. Willys Jeep**. This will be number 35219 and the retail on it will be \$18.00. The word on the street is that the kit is brilliantly designed to be pretty much a done deal right out of the box, with the body pan, the sides and the grill molded as one piece. Wow! It also sports a complete engine and a rear mounted .30 cal. You get a choice of front bumper, too.

Skipping back up the line is 35220, **German Kübelwagen Engine Maintenance Set**. This is whole box full of stuff for the Kübel with tools, toolbox, a work bench and a bunch of other bits to go along with a full engine module and a figure to work on it. This also includes an empty wheel hub and a corresponding wheel. The retail on this is a value priced \$9.00.

One item that almost snuck by us is **U.S. Army Combat Rations A**. Looks to be another paper type product that you cut out and fold into five different kinds of ration boxes. This is number 66665 and the retail is \$2.25.

There are at least eighteen newly released armor kits from Tamiya. These are many of the releases from the late seventies like the **Matilda** and the **25 pounder gun**. Many of these are out now or will become available by the end of the year.

We are hearing an awful lot of rumors regarding other types of Allied armor, but we'll stick to our policy of waiting for a stock number before we go blabbing.

Testors

Everything old is new again. And so we get several of the older Italeri items mixed in with the new stuff in 1998.

Here's the rundown by month for the year starting in June: 0209, **Hetzer** (limited re release); July: 0203, **M32 Recovery Tank** (limited re release); 0308, **British Tank Troops**; 0325, **U.S. Truck Crew**; 0232, **155mm M1A2** and 0362, **Tiger Engineer Vehicle**. This latter item is the Tiger I modified to lay demolition charges.

August brings 0365, **Leopard 2 A5**. In September look for 0360, **SWS Cargo**; 0361, **RSO with Pak 40 (towed)** and 0245, **Anti-Tank Dodge** (limited re release).

December has in store 0363, **Flak 43 Gun** (ouu!) and **M8 Greyhound** (double ouu!).

As usual, prices are TBA.

Testors has overhauled its entire line of airbrushes. The line is now composed of five different brushes and they're now known as **Aztek**

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1/48th Scale Frog Kits



1. Panzerkampfwagen III - M
2. British Infantry Tank Mk. II "Valentine"
3. 105 mm Pz. H18/2 Sd. Kfz. 124 Wespe
4. Jagdpanther 38(t) Hetzer
5. Russian Heavy Tank KV-1
6. M4A3 76mm Sherman
7. King Tiger Sd. Kfz. 182
8. Panther Ausf. G Sd. Kfz. 171
9. Tiger I Ausf. E Sd. Kfz. 181
10. U.S. 155mm Cannon Long Tom
11. German 88mm Flak 18
12. Schwimmwagen Type K2s
13. PKW K1 Kübelwagen
14. Hanomag Sd. Kfz. 251
15. Jagdtiger
16. Anti Tank Gun IV Nashorn
17. Russian Medium Tank T-34/76
18. Mittlerer 8 ton Sd. Kfz. 7 Kfz. 11
19. Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf. H Sd. Kfz. 161/2
20. Pz Jag Elephant Sd. Kfz. 184
21. Jagdpanther
22. Schwerer Panzerspahwagen Sd. Kfz. 232
23. Panzerkampfwagen II F/G
24. Willys Jeep

All the above kits are retailed at US \$19.98 each. Postage by surface mail is 15% value of the kit, while by airmail is 40% value of the kit.

US Distributor - Sentai Distributors, Inc. at Tel: (818) 886-3113 and Fax: (818) 886-2551.

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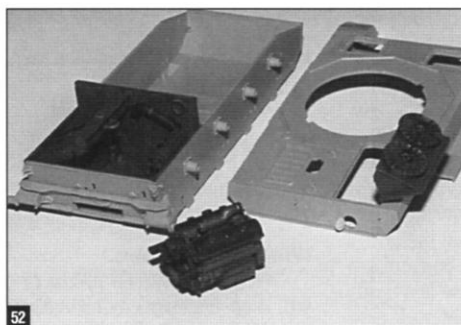
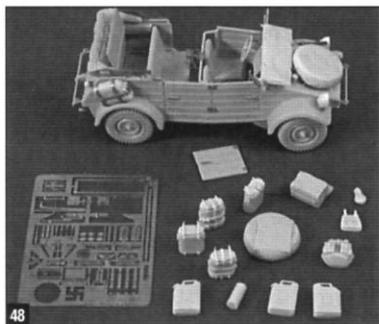
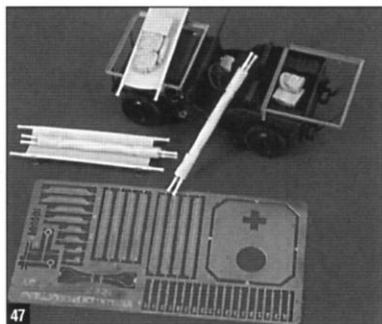
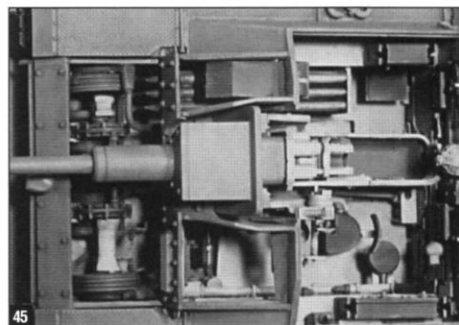
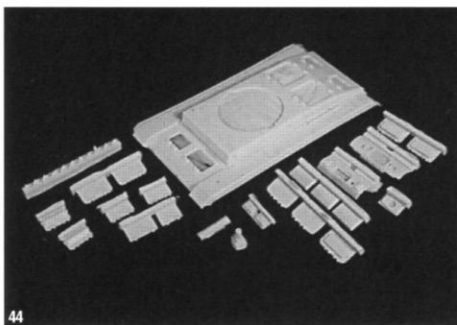
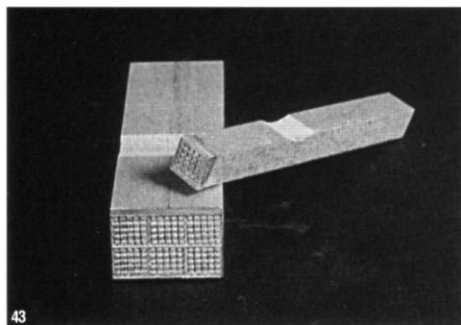


#CV112 1/35 Jagdtiger Flexible Zimmerit

Cavalier Model Productions 1/35th scale flexible resin zimmerit detail sets also available for Panther, Tiger, King Tiger, Jagdtiger and others. For more information, please contact:

Eduard/Precision Parts

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43. Zimmerit applicators from TWS.
44. Panzer III J conversion from TWS.
45. TWS' StuG III interior.
46. Maps 'n stuff from VLS.
47. The MASH Jeep from VLS.
48. VLS spices up the Tamiya Kübel.
49. VLS Para vignette.
50. The Heavy Horseman from VLS.
51. "Spoils of War."
52. Panzer IV engine from VLS.

Airbrushes rather than Model Master. Every one of the tools looks like they would be right at home on Dr. Crusher's operating table (obscure Star Trek reference).

The five are the A220, a basic single action brush; A270, a single action brush capable of fine line work; A320, another single action brush using the standard Aztek tip; A430, the basic double action Aztek brush previously released, but without the rear control; and A470, the "flagship" double action Aztek with rear control and enhanced with special ergonomic grips. These last two brushes still come with the lifetime warranty on the body.

We are especially fond of our Model Master brushes around here and we are anxious to see how they have improved on the A470. That A270 brush also caught our eye. Most single action brushes are crude affairs, but this one will spray a beautiful line down to Imm thick.

All of these brushes are compatible with one another and use the same hose and color cups, and the 320, 430 and 470 all utilize the same spray tip.

Prices on all the new brushes are TBA, but one of the hallmarks of the line is its reasonable price and we have been told this will remain a feature for some time to come.

Tank Workshop

Always a little action in the TWS camp. They have continued their line of interiors with a **full crew compartment for the Tamiya StuG III**. This is TTWG 2010 and the retail on this is \$50.00. It does not include the engine, but they do offer one for both the Panzer III and the StuG as a separate

item. This is TTWG 2031 and it retails for \$20.00.

An awesome and complete **interior for the Tamiya Panther** also is out now. This is number TTWG 2026 and it is a bumper to bumper situation with some of the nicest molding we've seen from TWS yet. This kit also can be purchased as either the fighting compartment or the engine as well as the whole shebang. The retail for the combo is \$70.00.

More interior decorating can be found in the form of a **Panzer III Ausf. L fighting compartment**. This also is sans engine, but it is otherwise complete with tranny, turret, etc. Look for number TTWG 2030 and a retail of \$50.00.

Some of the new accessories are a useful set of **Zimmerit applicators for the StuG**. These are small white metal pieces with the "waffle" pattern neatly mounted on the ends of small wooden blocks. Great idea. \$13.00 retail, item number TTWD 1052. TTWD 1056, **Dozer Blade for Type 74** is a simple and effective conversion for the recently re released Tamiya Type 74 Modern Japanese MBT. This retails for \$15.00. A very handy **Panzer III J conversion** is available. This includes the hull and several other resin replacement pieces to backdate the Tamiya L kit. This is kit number TTWG 2033 and it retails for \$18.00. Two sets of tires to dress up the Italeri M923 kit can be found in the TWS closet. They are TTWA 0046, **M923 5 ton set (Michelin aggressive pattern)** and TTWA 0047, **M923 5 ton set (Goodyear aggressive pattern)**. This last set is for Marine Corps trucks and it also includes the small auxiliary gas tank. 0046 is \$12.50 and 0047 is \$13.00.

Tank Workshop's previous **M4A2 conversion** has been redone and updated. This is a conversion

for the Tamiya M4A3 kit and it includes the entire upper hull and a few other bits. This is TTWA 0008 and it retails for \$15.00.

For ordering details see the Hobby Depot ad in this issue.

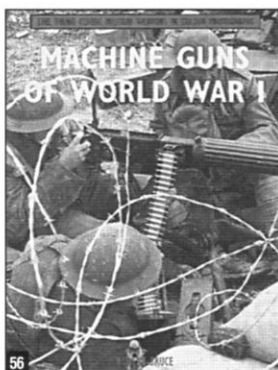
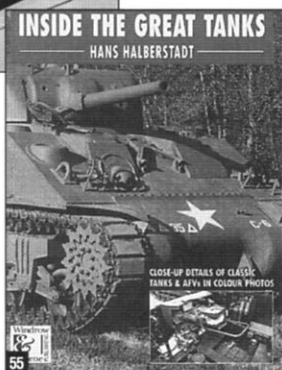
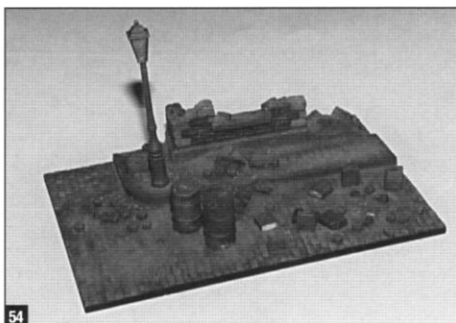
The VLS Corp

The boys at VP had all their latest wares at Chicago this year which afforded us the unique opportunity to get a little ahead on their somewhat breathless release list.

The following are all to be released by year's end. Let's run 'em down in numerical order shall we? 1281, **WWII Maps, Newspapers, Currency** is a printed sheet of stuff that is highly detailed with teeny money, newspapers and calendars in addition to some fine looking maps. 1283, **MASH Jeep conversion** is for the Italeri kit and it is composed of a large photo-etched sheet and several resin stretcher pieces. 1284, **Kübelwagen Detail Set** is for the new Tamiya kit and it really dresses it up with all manner of resin bits and pieces. The PE sheet is extensive too, with brackets, frames and even a swastika stencil. 1286, **German WWII AFV & Vehicle Markings Template** is more of the same. This is several different markings like three different Afrika Korps insignia, transport stencils (seen on doors) and red cross markings. 1288, **German WWII Paratrooper Vignette** is another instant scene including gear and a street lamp. 1291, **German WWII Mounted Food Carrier** will be familiar to some. It's that fat guy from The Longest Day on the draft horse. This is a good one. 1292, **"Spoils of War" WWII GIs Ardennes 1944**



53. Hey look! An actual future release from VLS; a set of mechanics with their tools.
54. Another one! A useful little dio base.
55, 56. Two of the several new titles from Windrow & Greene



makes up a scene with two dog faces checking out some abandoned German gear. Interesting depiction with unusual uniforms on the GIs, too. 1294, **Panzer IV Engine & Compartment**, makes up a crisply molded situation for the Tamiya Panzer IVs.

A bit down the road is 1305, **Panzer Mechanics**. This is two guys in overalls with mechanical stuff on their minds. The set includes a sheet of photo-etched wrenches, a tool box and several other gizmos. 1308, **Diorama Base** is a ready made cobble stone street deal with a low wall, sidewalk section, street lamps and a few oil drums and gas cans thrown in for good measure.

For more complete information on VLS see their ad in this neighborhood.

VM Company, Ltd.

You know these guys. They're are from Russia and they did the Valentine and the Bishop. Sorta out of the blue we received a fax sheet with several new kits listed. The first is 359605, **38(t) 140/1**. This is the recce vehicle with the 2cm turret. We saw this kit at Euro and it is fairly respectable. It had a few unique features such as a partial interior, correct wheels and link to link tracks. Apparently the interior will be a feature of all the 38(t) kits to follow. And follow they do. 359706, **Panzerbefehlswagen 39(t), Ausf. C** is, of course, the earlier version with the command antenna. 359707, **38(t) Ausf. G** is yet another rendition of the Czech tank. 359708, **Bergepanzer 38(t)** is a very wacky looking deal with no turret, a canvas roof and a rear mounted jib. This kit comes with a Maybach engine and transmission for the Panzer IV as accessories. 359709, **Valentine Infantry Tank Mk. VIII-XI** is a variation on that British theme. This should be a popular one. The final full kit listed is 359714, **Russian Anti-aircraft 76.2/85mm obr. 1938/39**. Interesting.

Four accessories are listed. 359710, **Highly Accurate Suspension & Standard Track for 38(t)**. We guess this is just the lower parts from the above kits. 359711, **2cm Hängelafette Turret**. Again, this is the turret from the 140/1 and it can be used for a variety of other German vehicles. 359712, **Engine and Engine Compartments for Pz. 38(t)** and Hetzer is more of the same and 359714,

Russian Artillery Crew & Rangefinder is company for the 85mm gun.

VM kits are found through a variety of retailers and mail order outlets. The Valentine was re boxed by DML in their Imperial Series, but although there is no confirmation that any of the above listed products will appear this way, it still remains a possibility.

Windrow & Green

W&G, our favorite producer of military books will keep you busy buying books this year. Out right now in the UK is Roy Porter's **Model Buildings Masterclass**, a full color hoe-down on making model buildings in all scales. This is 128 pages in their standard hardback configuration for \$29.95.

New in the series is **World War II Figure Modelling Masterclass**. This will be authored by Stefan Muller-Herdmertens in the fall of 1998. The author has done some really phenomenal stuff to a few beastly little plastic figures. Think of him as the Bill Horan of WWII figgys. Same specs as the other books and this one also is \$29.95.

A follow-up to German Automatic Weapons of World War II will be **Machine Guns of World War I** and **US Automatic Weapons of World War II**. Both will be 128 full color pages in a hard wrapper for \$39.95 each. MGOWWI is out now.

Similar in format to the excellent World War II GI book will be **The World War II Tommy: British Army Uniforms in Europe 1939-45**. If this is even close to the GI book, it'll be a stunner. 144 color pages, 250+ color photos will set you back \$39.95. Fall 1998.

Inside the Great Tanks will be a cool examination of several fully restored AFVs. Mostly U.S., British and Russian, it will contain 128 pages in full color for \$29.95.

That terrific little Europa Militaria series is ever expanding. On deck are: **24th Airmobile Brigade**, a peek at Britain's airmobile force (EM23); **The Scottish Regiments**, tons of photos of the modern units of the British Army (EM24); **Warrior Company**, an extensive look at Britain's armored infantry (EM25); and **"Freedom's Thunderbolt"** **ACE Mobile Force (Land)**, color photos of NATO's multi-national immediate reaction force (EM26). Warming up in the bullpen for 1998 are: EM27, **The**

Green Berets and EM28, Abrams Squadron.

We're excited and we're not embarrassed to say so. A friendly word of warning. Don't stand in your shop fingering these titles with a longing look on your face. The Panzer Modelling Masterclass book was so popular it flew off the shelves and was then hard to find for a while. So if you see it, like it and want it: BUY IT.

Look for W&G titles wherever cool books are sold.

Yanks Miniatures

Things are getting interesting at the House of Yanks. 9705, **M18 Hellcat Crew** will be a five figure ETO set (2 are 3/4 jobs) for \$30.00. They're made to fit the Minicraft kit. 9710, **Dead Japanese Soldier** is a single figure on a molded base for \$10.00. 9713, **US Tank Riders Set #2**, is the five figure follow up to #1 for \$20.00.

In the vehicular vein, check out 9711. **M-8 Howitzer Motor Gun Carriage Lower Hull Interior Set**. This for Tamiya's 335097 and it includes a driver's compartment, front hull plate, side sponsons, interior ammo stowage and more for \$30.00. 9636, **M5 US Light Tank Drivers Compartment** is a resin drop in module for Tamiya 351107. It's got seats, a front hull, controls and other stuff for \$18.00. 9712, **M5 US Light Tank Deep Water Fording Trunks** is one set of wet water wear for the Tamiya kit at \$20.00.

9715, will be a 1/35th scale **LCVP or Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel**. It's the famous landing craft used at Normandy and every damn day in the Pacific. Yeah Ba-by! This will retail for \$125.00.

For more info on Yanks, see the ad in this issue.



Book Reviews

Panther Variants 1942-1945

New Vanguard 22

by Hilary Doyle & Tom Jentz

Osprey Military 1997

48 pages, B&W with color plates.

\$12.95



THIS IS THE NEWEST IN THE series and it encompasses all the latest research by Mr. Jentz and Mr. Doyle. Much of this material is covered at length in the Schiffer title also by Jentz. The information presented here is a little bit more on the friendly side. The text is all derived

from war time German reports, rather than presenting the translated reports themselves. Think of it as "Panther Lite."

A lot more of the weirdo variants are covered here as well. Several profiles appear of the arty observation, SPG and Anti-Aircraft proposals. There also is a useful section on the emplaced Panther turrets. Betcha didn't know that more of these were used in France than in Italy, and that they also were used in the East.

The color plates struck us as more carefully researched than other titles and this particular book was redesigned with a snappy, more contemporary look.

Always a bargain, be sure to scarf this one up.

Soviet Tanks in Combat 1941-1945

The T-28, T-34, T-34-85 and T-44 Medium Tanks Armor at War Series 7011

by Steven J. Zaloga, Jim Kinnear,

Andrey Aksenov & Aleksandr Koshchavtsev.

Concord Publications, 1997
72 pages, soft cover, B&W with
color covers and center sections.
\$17.95



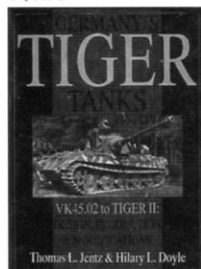
QUITE A CREW ON BOARD FOR this one. This small book contains a whole lotta photo research and has managed to squeeze over 100 new photos between its thin covers. Like the previous volume on the KV and the IS (which was supposed to succeed, rather than precede this one) it relies heavily on new research. There is much to be seen here, with some especially tempting shots of the T-28 and a super neat shot of a German 251 half track. It's equipped with a crane and is being used by the Soviets as a maintenance vehicle. We also get a few extra shots of the T-44 along with the downer confirmation that it never saw combat (rats!).

The color plates are well researched, too and cover a very diverse cross section of wartime vehicles including a few German T-34's.

If we had one complaint, it would be that the book could've been sub divided into more than one volume with perhaps some of the information being fleshed out a bit more. We would have gladly shelled out the dough for a book on, say, the SU series all by itself.

And, hey... somebody do a diorama of that great cover shot. And hurry!

Germany's Tiger Tanks VK45.02 to Tiger II: Design, Production & Modifications
by Thomas L. Jentz & Hilary L. Doyle
Schiffer Military History, 1997
169 pages, hard cover, B&W throughout.
\$49.95



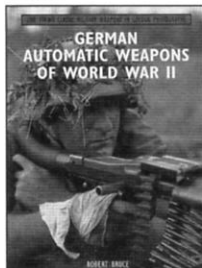
TOM JENTZ IS AS MAD AS HELL and he's not going to take it anymore. You see, he's sick and tired of people throwing terms like "Porsche Tiger" and "Henschel Tiger" around. It seems that there was no one official name for the Tiger II (if we can call it that) and he'd like to set the record straight once and for all.

Well he certainly does that in this new book. He and his good buddy Hilary Doyle spent the last twenty years or so pouring over original wartime documents and generally wedging themselves between the roadwheels of the world's surviving tanks. All of this new information is packed into this extremely interesting volume. The complete story of the tank is told, right from its origins through its final designs. Sketches and drawings are dispersed very thoroughly throughout the text and these include Mr. Doyle's competent drawings as well as reproductions of original factory plans.

If you are a lover of all things German, this book will both surprise and delight. There are many small details which will quickly find their way on to your next armor model. One of our favorite visuals is the drawing depicting the proposed July 1945 design changes.

Being a quality hard bound book increases the value all the more and it makes a superb companion to the earlier book on Tiger tactics (although we're still try to figure out why it starts with chapter 4—the Tiger Tactics book starts with chapter 7...). It did make us wish for a similar treatment on the Tiger I, although that may yet be in the works.

German Automatic Weapons of World War II
by Robert Bruce
Windrow & Green Ltd, 1997
128 pages, full color throughout.
\$39.95

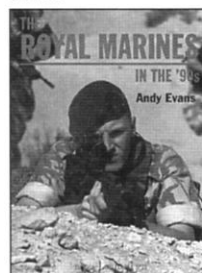


THIS IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES of books illustrating the live firing of various automatic weapons from the war. Basically, the premise is this: get a few guys together, dress 'em up in the appropriate uniforms and start wailing away with a representative cross section of automatic weapons, then knock off and get really, really drunk. O.K. they may not have done that last part, but they did the first part pretty well. There are seven different weapons showcased and each is preceded with a brief history and a few wartime shots, some of which include contemporary commercial advertisements. The author then delves into the function of each and these steps are fully illustrated with dramatic color photos (lots of flying cartridges caught in mid air). In addition to the "live firing" shots, the guns are subsequently broken down and cleaned, all under the watchful eye of the author's Nikon.

There is more detail than you'll ever need for a 1/35th scale rendition of these weapons, but large scale figure modelers of the period should go spaz to have this material on hand. The recent trend towards 1/9th scale stuff is also hungry for this type of reference. Aside from that, this book is just plain 'ol cool and it makes a great addition to the shelf of any military modeler.

The Royal Marines in the '90's
Europa Militaria 21

by Andy Evans
Windrow & Greene, 1997
64 pages, full color throughout.
\$15.95



THIS IS THE LATEST IN THE series we have received for review, although we reviewed number 22 in issue 10. This short volume covers the Royal Marines and like others in the series it does so quite thoroughly, starting with a brief history, dress uniforms and all types of field situations. In the case of our British wet-footed friends, this covers a lot of territory—basically the whole planet.

The author has joined groups in all these locals and captured some pretty good stuff. A huge variety of weapons and equipment is showcased, including some of the unusual beach vehicles deployed by the Marines. There is an especially interesting section on the Marine's training deployment to Norway where they practice their craft in the snowy winter wastes. This is an interesting contrast to the section on jungle training. "See the world"...

Another hit from W&G and one of the few places you can find good color stuff on modern forces.

Green Devils!
German Paratroopers 1939-45
First-Person Accounts
by Jean-Yves Nasse



result is an extremely detailed book that is almost entirely composed of unpublished photographs.

The book covers the chronological history of the corps and the photos follow this along and occasionally are interspersed with shots from the Bundesarchiv and the ECPA (the French archive), although most of these were also new to us.

All of the photographs are what is called a "duotone." This is a black and white photo that is printed with one other color, usually brown. This can enhance the quality of the image and it really works well here. Highlights include series from both Norway and Crete and a wide range of posed studio shots with troopers in full combat harness. There also are a few interesting shots of late war uniforms, something that is decidedly scarce in the archives.

The author is to be complimented for this work. Gaining the trust of the veterans is never an easy task and he has utilized their cooperation quite well. The book is a true reflection of their experiences and we consider it a rare find.

D'Arnhem A Walcheren, L'Automne Perdu (1)
Operation Market Garden
Militaria Magazine Hors-Serie No. 23
by Yves Buffetaut
Histoire & Collections, 1997
\$17.95



We rarely review these titles as they don't usually show up in time for review (or at all). This series is published quarterly and each new volume typically turns up something new and interesting we haven't seen before.

This issue pertains to the Allied air drops in Holland in September of 1944 and it does give up the goods when it comes to rare photos. The book also contains maps and drawings illustrating the various phases of the operation and is further supplemented with color plates of the major weapons used by the combatants. Here we have plates of the Cromwell, a StuG, an Opel Blitz AA truck and even a few planes are thrown in (ewwww!).

In a general sense, the photos are exceptional with comprehensive coverage of the air phases, showing lots of gliders and early drop zone scenes. The German stuff is first rate and two shots are just about worth the price of the book. The first is a shot of two Möbelwagens passing each other on a road. Shots are just so rare of this thing and this particular photo is quite clear. The second is a Sturmhaubitze G with its muzzle brake missing, passing a parachute that is draped across a bush. Great diorama inspiration.

These books are a great value and the series is worth looking for. The French text is a bit of a drawback if you're not suffering from that affliction, but if reference photos are your desire, these books truly deliver.

It's Joe's T-26-athon

RPM's wild and wonderful T-26 tank series



The Polish injection molder RPM has again expanded their series based on the original 7TP kit. The modeler now has a choice of two 7TPs, the single turret that was the parent of the line and a twin turret; two Vickers 6-tonners, single and double turret (these were, of course, the real parents); and four T26s, a single and a double turret, the flame tank based on the double turret, and an artillery tractor. And probably more, by the time you read this.

The T-26 story begins in 1928, when the first Vickers-Armstrong Six-Ton Tank saw the light of day. Designed for the export market (they were turned down by the British army, which bought inferior designs), the six-tonner in its two guises of Type A, the twin turret, and Type B, the single turret, was sold to Bolivia, Bulgaria, China, Finland, Greece, Thailand, Russia, and Poland, and license built in the last two. It saw combat literally all over the world, from South America to Asia to Europe. It was so superior to the Pz I during the Spanish Civil

War that German tankers offered bounties for running T-26s! By WWII, though, it had grown a bit long in the tooth, and rapidly disappeared.

Construction

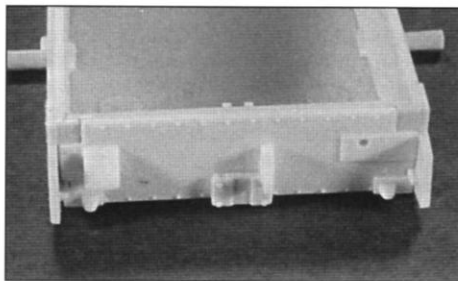
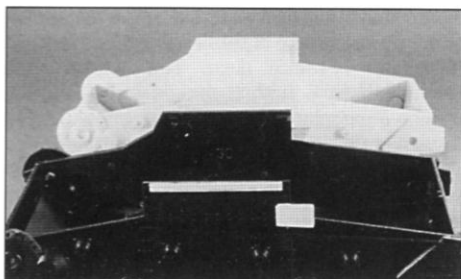
The main drawback to the kit(s) is that it's based on the 7TP. This vehicle had high engine deck sides to house its engine, unlike the Vickers and the T-26. A large rectangular plate at the bottom rear of the superstructure mounting the turret was used to brace these high sides, and this plate is present on all the kit variants.

Now for your Polish language lesson. (I know that's why you're reading this article!) The kit instructions point to these plates and the small turret skirt on the top left of the superstructure and say "usunac." This means "remove." Unfortunately,

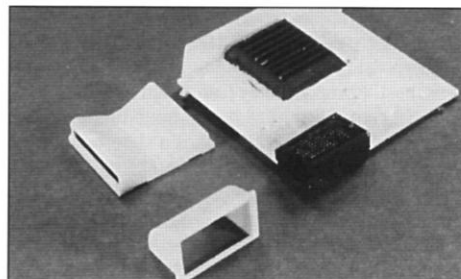
when you usunac the plates and the skirt, you also usunac all the rivet detail on the hull sides. And that's not all the usunacing. To build the newer variants, you have to take off the engine deck grill right behind the superstructure and all need the air vent on the left rear removed and the hole filled. This is so the "V" shaped engine cover and the curved air vent will fit. You'll notice a couple more Polish words pointing at the deck: "inna wersja." This means "alternate version," so you don't have to usunac all that stuff if you build the earlier ones.

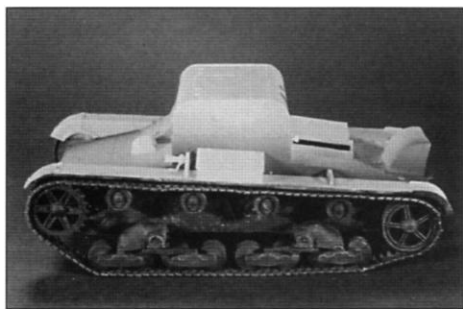
Probably the biggest drawback to the 7TP kit was the tracks. Virtually featureless and very stiff, they were as bad as any 'rubber band' tracks ever made. All the kits now include a set of individual link tracks (and ModelKasten also makes a set).

The ModelKasten ones are a little more detailed, but not much, and in my estimation not worth the expense. If you're stuck with an early kit with the bad tracks, RPM does sell the track sets for about ten bucks. These tracks go together quite well; use a sharp knife to remove them from the

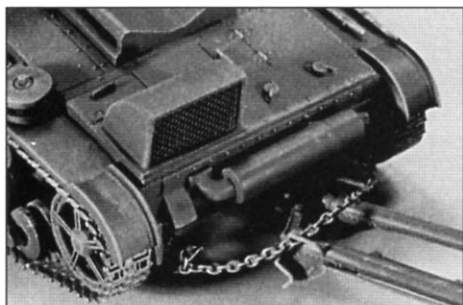


Left: the black lower hull in the foreground is a 7TP hull. The light areas are those to be usunac. The light hull in the background has been done. Above: rear hull plate. Right: engine deck. Areas in black are to be removed to fit the parts to the left.





Above: the completed T-26T before paint; the running gear has, of course, been painted. Right: the finished kit. The round lump next to the driver's hatch is an armored light; it pivoted to the rear to expose the light. The new engine cover is optional, but all T-26s had the big screened air vent for their air-cooled engine. Below: the tow hook was not furnished; it came from an Alan Zis truck. The safety chain goes from tow hook through the handles on the trail of the gun to the other tow hook.



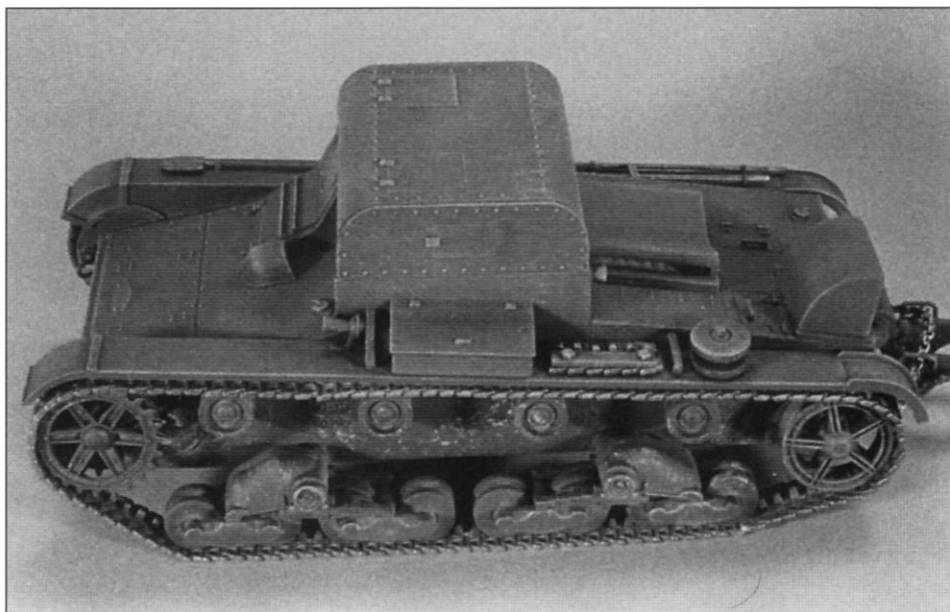
sprues to minimize cleanup time.

I had some prior experience with these little beasts. I built a 7TP when they first came on the market. Not long after, I did my first resin conversion, building a T-26S (the last variant) with the MB Models conversion. And just recently, I built an AT-1, using the Commanders resin conversion and the ModelKasten tracks.

T-26T

The first one of the series I built for this article is probably the least known (I found no photographs of this one). This is the artillery tractor variant, converted from gun tanks by simply removing the turret and adding a high domed cabin on top of the superstructure. By the way, I've seen this kit referred to as an "artillery observation vehicle," but the translation for "*ciagnik artyleryjski*" is "artillery tractor." Strangely enough, there was no tow hook provided, so I pilfered one from an Alan ZIS truck kit.

Do all the plastic removal before you build the hull...it's a lot easier. I built the hull first before I found out what "*usunac*" meant. I used a ball cutter (a tool, not a radical feminist) in a Dremel for



this, finishing with an emery board and sandpaper. I didn't replace the rivet detail on the hull sides, as most are covered by toolboxes, the fender braces, and stowage. Careful removal will prevent the destruction of the detail on the engine deck.

The large air outlet (part 21) will need a screen added to its open face. I used a stainless medium mesh; don't forget to paint the inside of this thing black before installation. Same goes for the new engine cover, part 33.

The raised cabin is not a perfect fit. Although the plans and drawings show no ledge on either end, there is about a one millimeter 'step' on one or the other, so I put it at the back.

This could be faired with a bit of styrene, but I didn't think it worth while. The hinges for the hatches on top and sides are featureless.

There were six track shoes left over after the running gear was built, plus a couple broken removing them from the sprues. (Be careful removing any fine parts from the heavy sprues!)

This was a perfect number for stowage.

Since this is an artillery tractor, I had to build something for it to tow. I chose a Zvezda 76mm gun. This was a nice kit, with no major problems or drawbacks, and it fit the tow bracket perfectly. I ran some chain from the hooks at the back through the handles on the trails.

Finish (malowanie means paint) is the typical Russian Pactra dark green, drybrushed with Pactra interior green. Tracks were done in hull red, drybrushed with gun metal. The exhaust system was done in rust, and added after the overall paint job, as were the tools and other stowage.

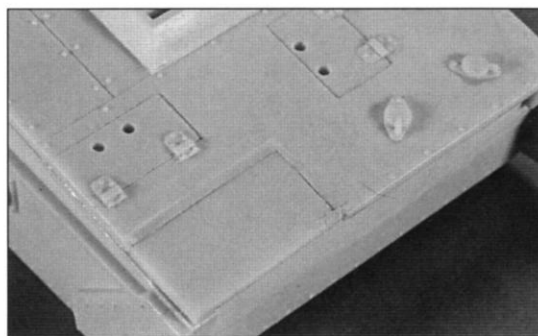
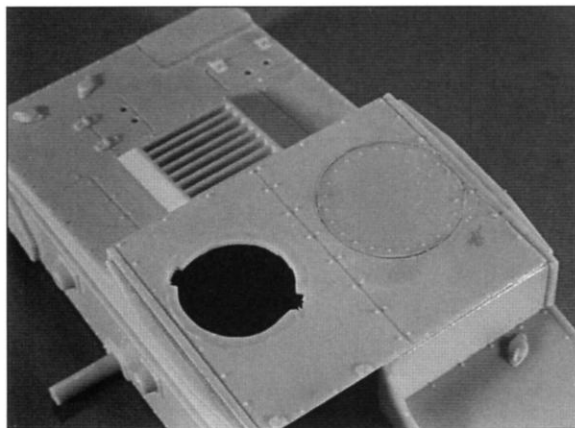
T-26B-1

This is the first single turret variant, and digging in my research material produced no photographs of this particular turret. The Milsom book (Russian Tanks 1900-1970) did provide a clue: "This vehicle had a new, larger turret which had originally been developed for the BT tanks." Going back to the books and concentrating on BTs instead of T-26s, I found several photos of BTs with this turret. The box refers to this variant as "T-26/BT 2," BT 2 being the tank that furnished the turret, I suppose. Milsom provides the ".B-1" designation. Why these guys used this turret is beyond me, unless they are planning a series of BTs (please, oh please!). Included on the turret sprue was a set of twin machine guns to fit the mantlet, which would make a BT 1, so maybe that's their plan.

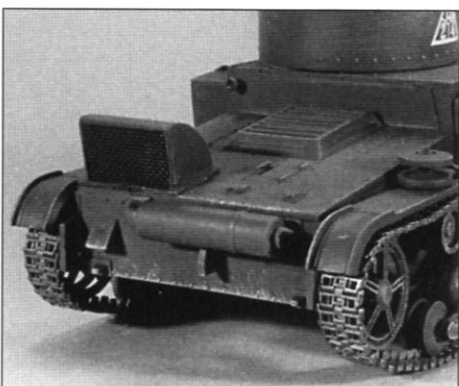
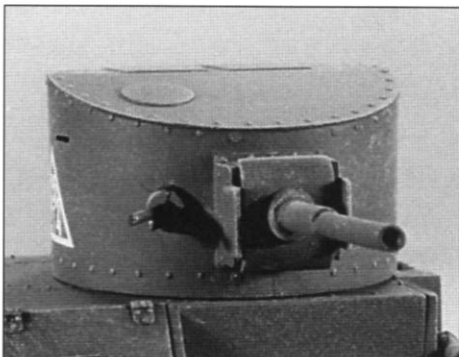
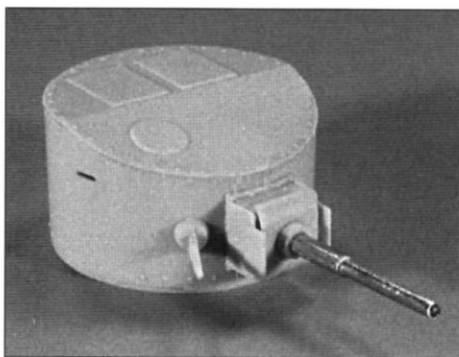
In part VI, the hull assembly, you're told to remove the offending reinforcing plates, and also told to add the turret skirt, part 15. Photos (not too clear) show that there was no skirt on the left side, under the turret, or on the other side. So don't put on #15, and usunac the molded one on the left.

Possibly some of these were converted from the double turret model, as this kit uses the double turret superstructure deck with two holes. A round plate is furnished to blank off the right opening. Since this plate is a flush fit, the protruding turret lock for the offending turret must be removed. After you hack this away, the opening must be carefully carved to fit the plate. Not only that, but the other turret lock must also be removed! This is needless complication. How hard would it be to mold a flat plate with the correct turret mount?

That wasn't the only aggravation with this kit.



Attached: The photo at right shows the engine deck cleaned and filled to accept the large air vent. The other shows the superstructure with the left turret aperture closed by the furnished plate, and the other turret lock removed. This is done for both B-1 and OT-26.



Upper left: the "B-1" turret; note metal barrel from my spares. Above: right side of finished T-26B-1. Sorry about those stowage boxes, guys. Left: the turret, showing the ball mount machine gun. No, it's not very ballistically correct. Below left: rear clasp. Note this vehicle does not have the late engine cover. Bottom of the page: in ten years, Russian tank design went from the T-26B-1 to the IS-3 (the new Tamiya kit).

glue the turret along the left edge of the superstructure. Careful here, though; all the photos of these early ones and the box art show the turret overhanging the left side just a bit. The turret won't glue flat because of all the rivets, so I put some pieces of ten thou plastic sheet on the opening in the top to give me enough clearance. The gun provided was a weird conical shaped thing that bore no resemblance to any of the photos, so I substituted one from my spares that had the right shape.

Only one of the stowage boxes shown in the plans was provided, so I used a couple of the tall square ones included. After I firmly glued one of them on (they help locate the fenders) I could find no photos of that style box on a T-26. They turned out to be for the Vickers. So shoot me.

The plans and the box art show this vehicle liberally festooned with spare track links. There's an extra sprue of tracks provided with the kit to do

this. It's a good thing, too, 'cause four sprues are exactly enough for the kit. I didn't add the extras, 'cause I was tired of messing with the tracks.

Again, a coat of dark green was applied, dry-brushed with interior green. The markings provided weren't to my liking, being of the patriotic slogan variety, so I put on a set of the triangles from the Italeri BT 5 set. Another one done.

OT-26

This is the flame-thrower variant, the first version being produced by removing the left turret from the twin turret tank and adding flame gear to the remaining turret along with the machine gun. It was not a success, the one man turret being too small to fit all the stuff.

Construction was much the same as the rest, a lot of usunacing offending 7TP remnants. Lo and behold, this one had the missing outer wheels.

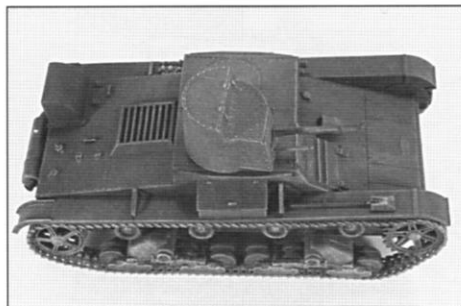
The 7TP and the T-26 did not use the same road wheels. The T-26 instructions show (in the parts plan) four sprues with the correct road wheels, but these were not included. (For good reason; see below.) Strangely the T-26T did not show these, but all the others did. A letter to Poland was fruitless. And, some of the pegs between the inner and outer drive sprocket halves were broken off.

Now for some more Polish. The bogie instructions (part V) have a whole paragraph beginning "wozek" and ending "czolgu." There are seventeen words in the paragraph which I won't burden you with. All this means the wheels with rivets go on the outside. The wheels with rivets are, of course, those missing ones.

The turret instructions (part X) have a small legend under part 39, the turret base, reading "usunac nadmiar plastiku na spodzie detalu." Well, plastiku is pretty evident; the rest means remove excess plastic from the turret base. Since I didn't have any excess plastic, this told me that I'd built the turret with the base upside down, all the excess being inside. I'd done this since I could tell that the provided turret boss wouldn't fit the hole in the superstructure, and I was pretty tired of all the usunacing. I'd recommend you do the same.

And the last of the Polish, at least on this kit; part XI says "przykeic rowno z lewa krawedzia pancierza" with an arrow pointing at the superstructure top where the turret goes. This means





Above left and right: T-26S, the last variant. In this major redesign, the superstructure sides were slanted, as were the turret sides. The suspension was strengthened to take the weight of increased protection. This is an MB conversion, and has the original poor kit tracks. At the time it was built, no after market tracks were available. Left: overhead view of the OT-26. The left turret was removed, and the flame equipment plus a machine gun crammed into the remaining one man turret. Below left and right: note wire running to the flame gun muzzle and the small muzzle cap. The screen for the air vent must come from your spares.



Unfortunately, that led to a major problem. It takes about two hours to remove and clean up the bogie wheels. I went through the whole thing, glued and trued all the wheel pairs. Then when I began the bogie assembly, I found out that the pairs with the "correct" outside wheels didn't fit between the bogie halves. They were too short; the pins didn't contact the bogies. At this point, I came as close to throwing an injection molded kit in the garbage as I've ever been (I've thrown some resin kits from "Tankmaster" in the trash, but before construction started). This is ridiculous. There's no reason to put this kind of crap on the market. This means nobody built the kit before they started selling it! So I started all over with another set of road wheels.

The rest of the construction was just like the B-1, including carving the superstructure to fit the round plate that goes where the left turret went, and removing the other turret lock. That's right, the remaining turret didn't fit the lock, either. Doesn't make much sense.

The turret was different, of course. Nothing seemed to fit right on it; it's comprised of seven plates, flat and curved, plus the guns. It took hours to not very patiently carve, glue, and putty the thing

into submission. (By this time, I was heartily sick of T-26s.) The flame gun was a hopeless lump of plastic, and the machine gun was broken off. I scratch built another flame gun that resembled the photos about 200% better than the kit one, and replaced the broken machine gun barrel with one from my spares.

Now for (almost) the last of the Polish. In the turret instructions is a little squiggly line with a legend saying "drut o 0.4 wykonać samodzielnie," which means "make from wire (not provided) 40mm long." This is, I think, the hose that supplies the flame fuel, or maybe it's the igniter wire. Anyway, I made it from wire.

The same finish went on this one as the rest.

Conclusion

Well, just how much do you want early war Russian vehicles? If you're willing to go through a lot of aggravation and usunacing; if you have a deep parts box and plenty of putty; if you're willing to buy an extra kit to make up the broken parts you will get; if you never ask for customer service; these kits are right up your alley. You see, I'd intended to build the twin turret version, but I had to strip the kit to replace the broken drive sprockets and wasted road wheels. As for me, it'll be about the turn of the century before I build another one of these things. And for you out there: *Powodzenia!* (that's Polish for good luck). ☛

—Joe Morgan

MMiR RECCE

The RPM kits do not carry stock numbers other than those provided by their respective retail agents. It's best to look for them simply by their individual names. Certain kits can also be found under the Mirage label.

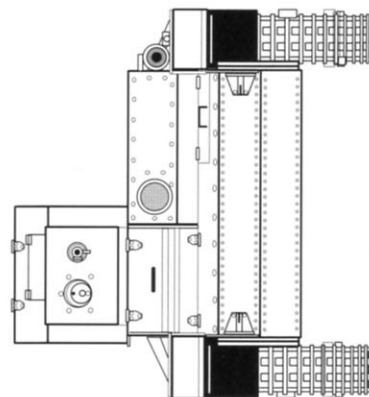
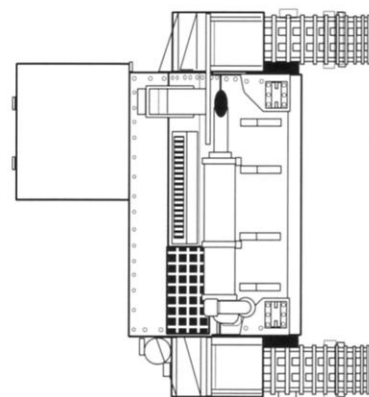
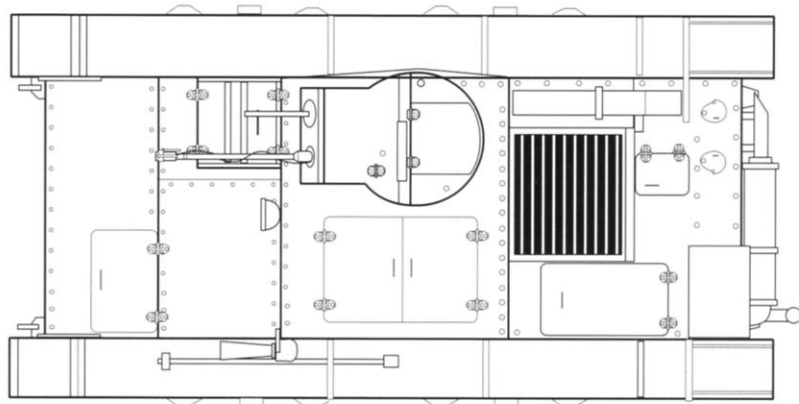
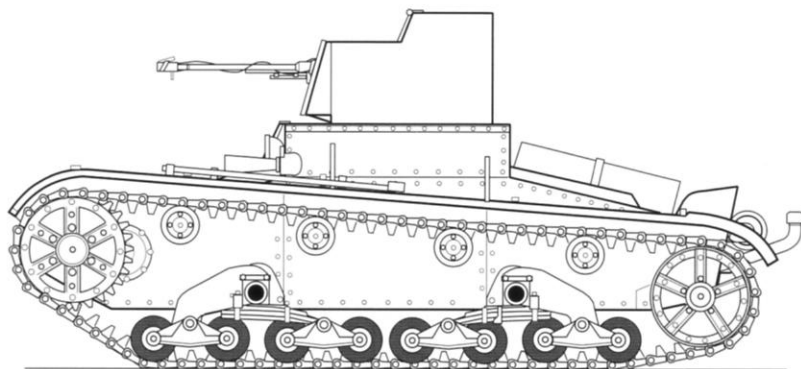
References

Russian Tanks 1900-1970, by John Milsom, Galahad, New York, 1970.

Thanks to Elzbieta Kasprzyk for the Polish translations.

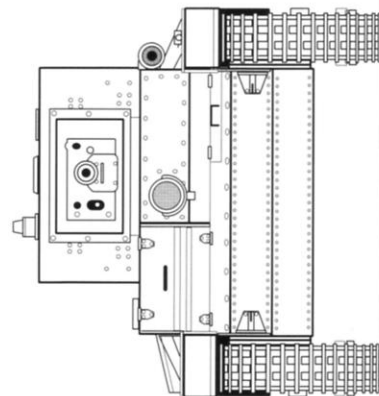
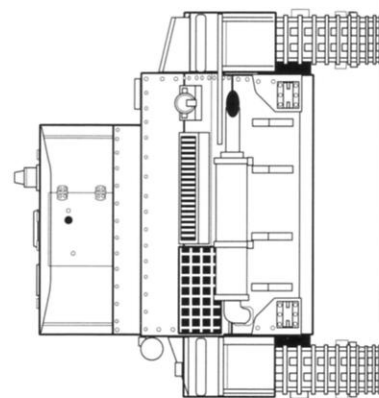
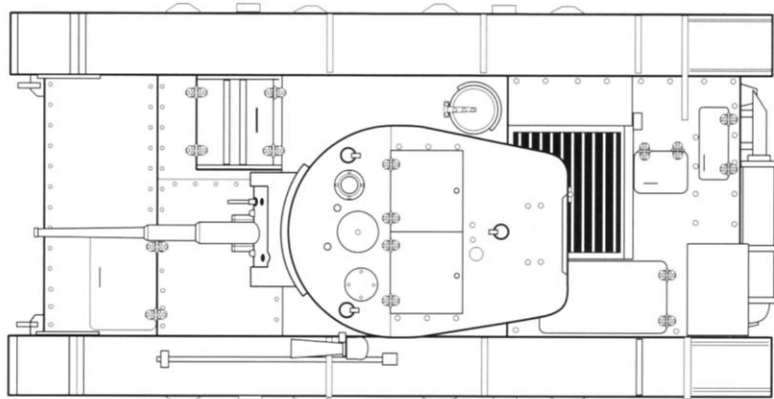
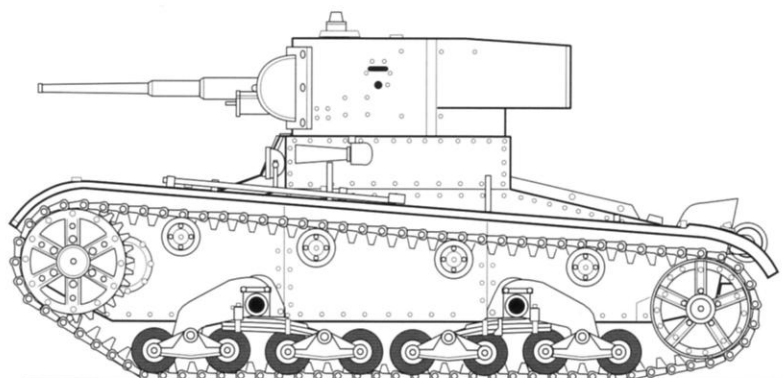
OT-26 Flamethrower Tank

They are a bewildering array of variants in the T-26 line. Here are a few more examples courtesy of George Bradford.



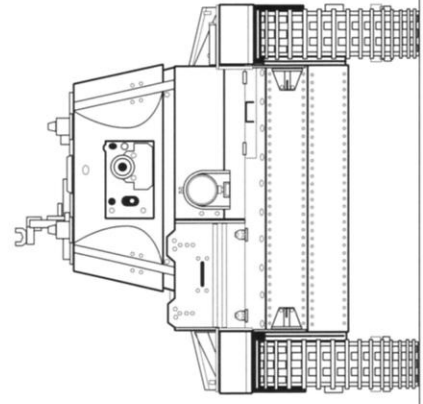
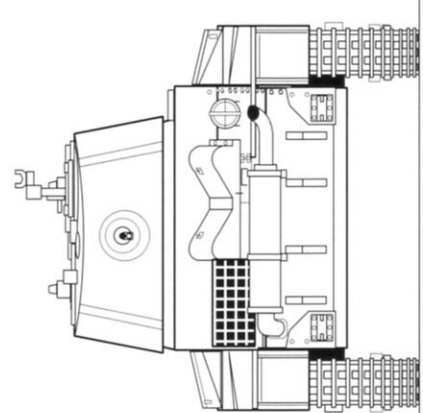
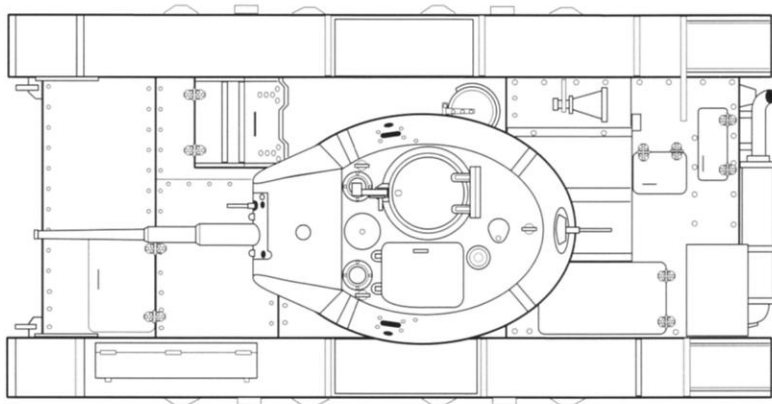
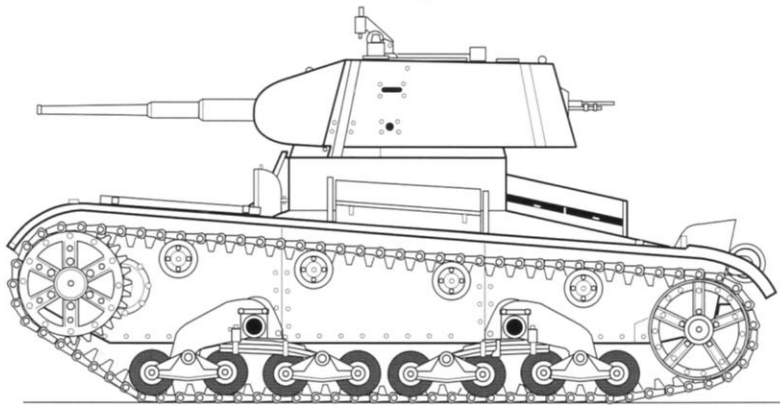
T-26 Model 1933 Light Tank

1:48 scale

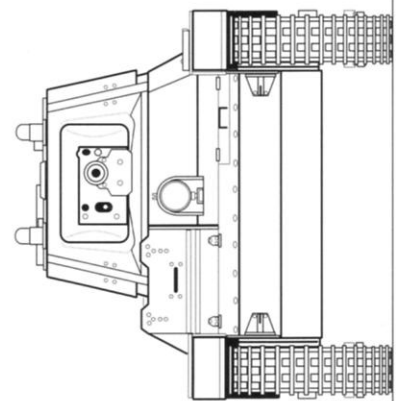
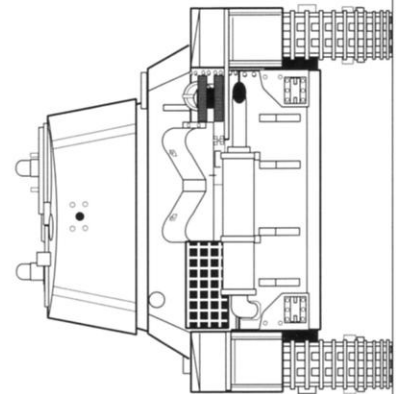
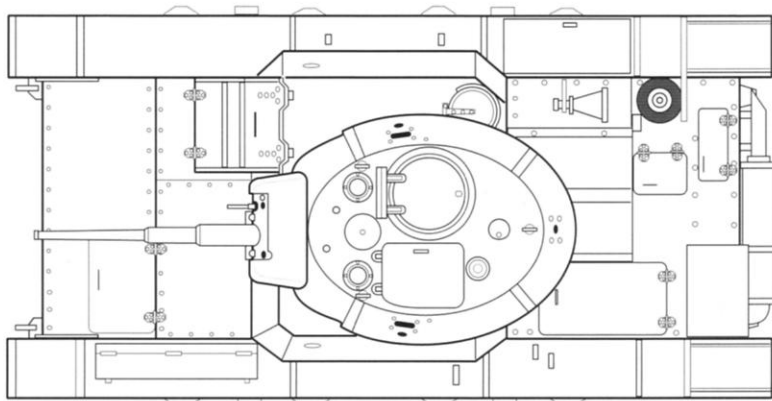
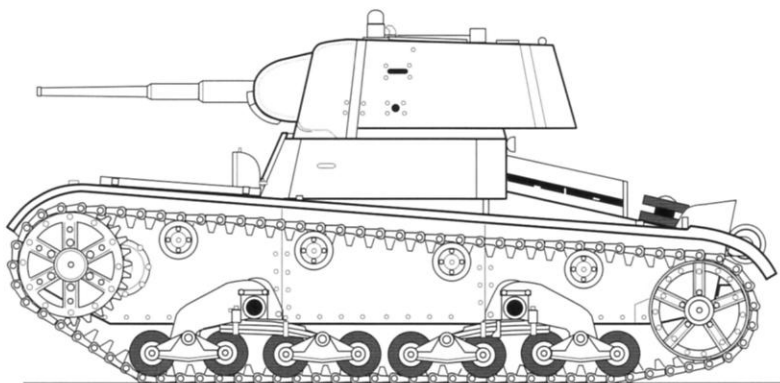


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T-26S Model 1937 Light Tank



T-26S Model 1939 Light Tank



Room 222

It's an education in saving money and having fun!



Amidst all this super detailing extravaganza, I had a thought. Do you really have to break the bank to super detail a model? Well, the answer is no. You can simply scratch build every small feature, but to those of us with an actual life, there must be some middle ground. I believe that there is. There are several projects that I have envisioned that include older, less expensive kits and simple inexpensive detailing sets. This is one of those projects.

The subject here is the old Tamiya 222 armored car. This kit was released back in the 1970's and it was one of the first truly scale miniatures from Tamiya. I guess it was too small to motorize! It has some excellent details including an amazingly detailed under carriage. To junk it up, I added the Show Modelling set, which is pretty simple, being

composed mostly of the anti-grenade screens and a few other smaller parts. I also added the Royal Models "Driver Knows," a set of resin and brass distance markers (the translator was apparently having a bad day when he named this one) and I used parts from the Tamiya tools set for the Panzer IV.

The basics

Building the kit is a real pleasure and proof that Tamiya hasn't only recently learned its craft. I built the lower hull and frame with no modifications and no difficulties. If you're careful, the wheels can be made to spin on their hubs, always a handy feature when painting.

The 20mm gun was built box stock with the exception of drilling out both the main barrel and the co-axial MG. The gun moves up and down and it's important to leave it this way. It's essential when

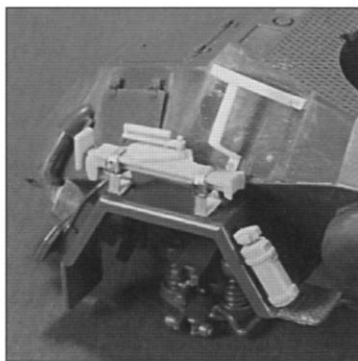
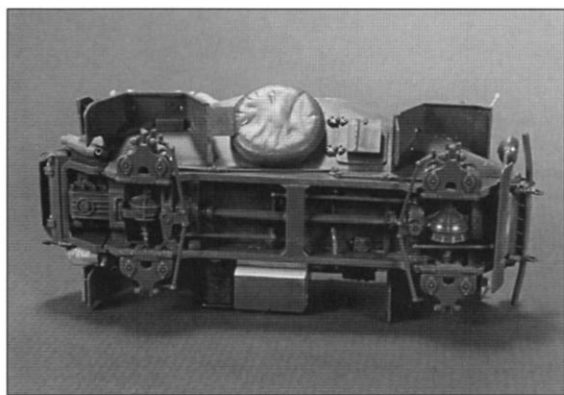
installing it into the hull.

The upper hull was detailed using most of the kit stock parts. I replaced the jack with the newer Tamiya item and used the jack mounting parts from the SM set. The SM instructions were not all that clear on this, but with so few parts it wasn't too tough to figure out.

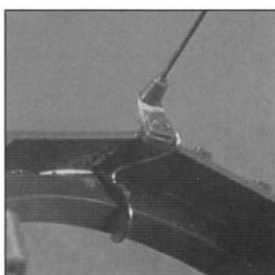
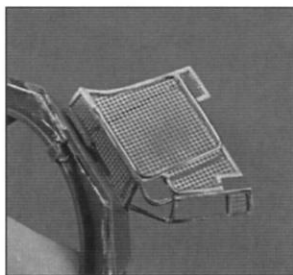
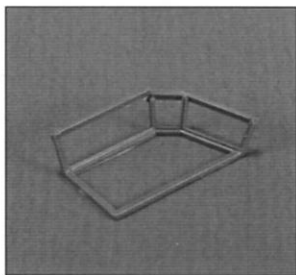
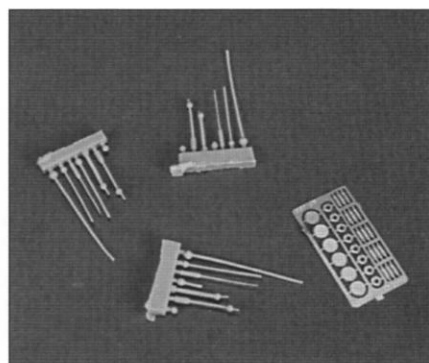
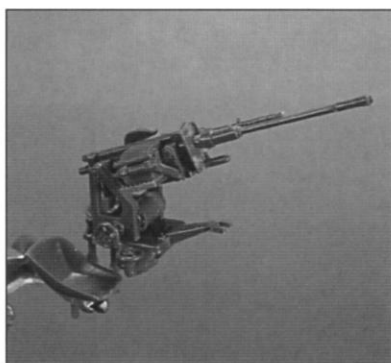
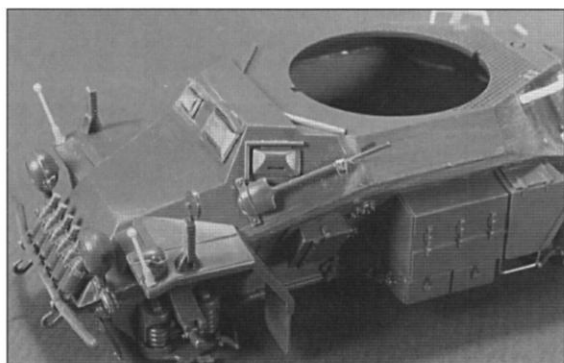
The early style fire extinguisher from the Tamiya tool set also was added to the right rear fender.

I replaced the kit's gas cans with a scratch built rack made from styrene strip and Grandt Line rivets. I used a DML gas can to determine the size and then mounted those parts in the finished brackets. These cans are much superior to others I've seen. They contain the proper stamped markings and have detailed caps.

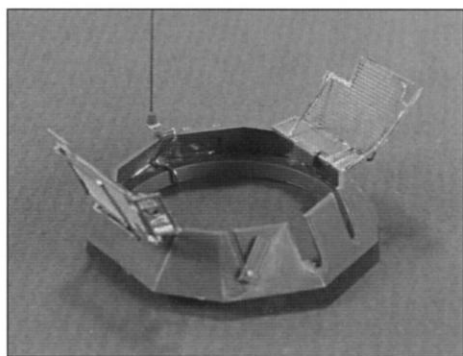
I used the kit's shovel, but I detailed it with parts from the Show Modelling set. The kit's tow cable



Far left: the belly of the beast. Tamiya was no slouch even way back then. I didn't mention it in the text, but the back of the left stowage box was open. I covered it with some sheet styrene. Left: the Tamiya jack and fire extinguisher, the Show Modelling mounts and my scratch-built gas can rack. The two holes beneath it had to be filled. Below left: the front end details. The kit's shovel was used and detailed with parts from the Show Modelling set. Below center: more of that good looking detail on the gun. I didn't add anything to this area of the model. Below right: the Royal "Driver Knows" set as it comes out of the bag. A pretty handy item to have around.



which I made from copper wire. The ends were flattened out a bit to mount in the hinges. Wire also is added to the corners of each screen for reinforcement.



Above left: a completed side marker. The Royal parts are not as thin as wire, but they are much easier to install. Above center: the kit's anti-grenade screen and the finished, but unpainted Show Modelling replacement part. Above right: the antenna lead added to the back of the turret. Below left: the completed turret with all the added details ready for painting.

As a final bit of detailing on the turret, I drilled out the antenna base, added wire for the antenna and made a short lead for it with fine solder.

Paint job

To paint my 222, I first painted the entire model flat black, including the interior. I then went back over the model very carefully with Polly Scale Armor Dark Yellow. With all these angled panels it's possible to create some very dramatic shadow effects. This is especially important on the back deck, which was actually open to below on the real thing.

Certain fixtures on the gun were gently picked out with the yellow and the remaining black parts were drybrushed with gun metal.

The tires were painted using a drafting temple to spray the yellow over the black. They still were unattached at this point for ease of painting.

A very subtle pattern of dark green was sprayed on the hull and it's most noticeable across the larger panels.

The markings were cobbled together from several of the VP dry transfer sheets. I was shooting for markings from the 2nd Kradshützen battalion of the Grossdeutschland division at Kursk in 1943. An actual photo of this animal was not to be found, so I relied on photos taken the previous summer of the battalion's 222's and 232's. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that some wise-ass in my local club doesn't unearth the proper photo!

The model was given a thin wash of dark brown oil paint and I made sure that plenty of it settled in

and its plastic heads were used for the front fender. The left rear stowage box right next to the fender should have a foot rail. I made this from copper wire. Easy stuff.

The Royal marker set is a simple affair with three resin sprues and a small sheet of etched brass. The molding is just short of amazing on the distance markers. I've never seen anything so thin successfully molded in resin. There are several different size rods and each sprue also has a single ball. It's possible to just use the resin balls on your own brass rod poles. Little balls like this are hard to find (hey no jokes out here!). The etched sheet has the mounting plates and several useful rear-view mirrors and their corresponding brackets (the SM set also has mounting brackets). These mount on one or both of the front markers and were attached

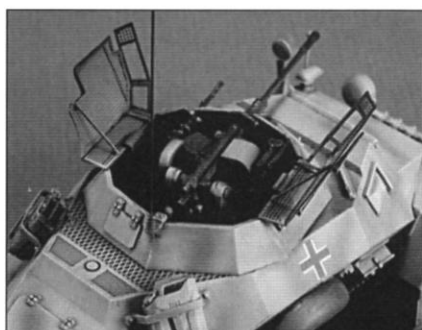
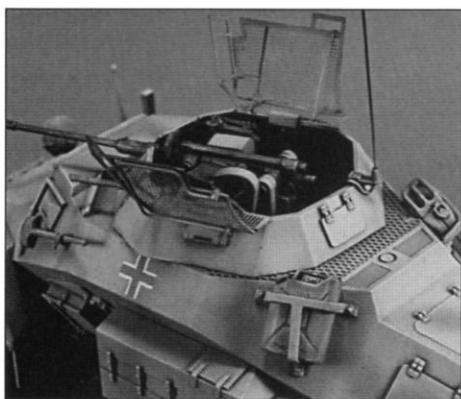
simply with a looped bracket across the back. I didn't use them for this project, but I'll find a use for them on my next German armored car.

I selected two of the mounting bases and aligned them carefully on the fenders. Marking the location with a drill or a knife will help keep them even. The poles were then glued on top of each. Just be careful to keep them at the same angle relative to each other. These poles usually were canted out a few degrees forward and to the outside. It's probably a good idea to add these last, as they'll break off easily.

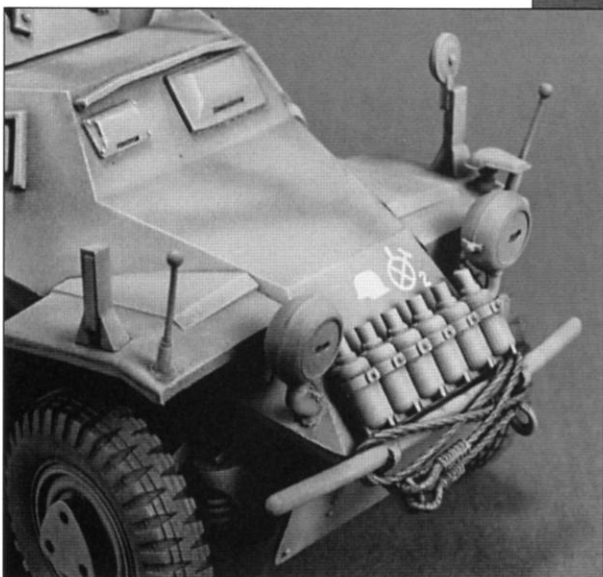
Up top on the turret

The screens are next. The early Show Modelling stuff is a bit hard to bend, so I heated it first several times in a candle and then dunked it in some water. This makes it very pliable. This is important later, because you'll be making some very short and precise bends to the thin frames of the screens.

Once the frames are bent, you add the etched screen panels. I was a little concerned, but they fit perfectly. Small hinges get installed on top of the screens next and these in turn get rod frames,



This page: lots of finished views of the kit. At left is the turret. I didn't add much to this area besides the screens because it's very difficult to see down in there. The jack and fire extinguisher set off the fender well (below left). The decals are various VP dry transfers and the markings are from a Motorcycle Reconnaissance battalion from the GD division in 1943. The 222 had four wheel drive and four wheel steering, so I canted both sets of wheels to show this. I simply clipped off the locating pins on the backs of the hubs and glued them in at an angle.



that upper deck screen. This area was further enhanced with persistent drybrushing, as was the rest of the model.

I dig the finished kit. I felt the paint job came off well and the added details were just what I was looking for. There is more you could do. The interior can be detailed more, the vision flaps can be detailed and opened and the forward smoke dischargers also could be further detailed. Eduard makes a great sheet for the 223, which includes the entire rear screen deck, so you can see right through it.

The final tally on all this was not all that shocking. Everything was way less than fifty bucks. Not bad. I'm also looking at the Tamiya 232, which is also covered by a Show Modelling set. And I've got extra "Driver Knows," too! ☺

—Ken Dugan

MMIR RECCE

Tamiya Sd.kfz 222 Leichter Panzerspähwagen. Kit number 35051. Suggested retail \$11.00.

The Show Modelling Sd.kfz 222 Detail Set. Kit number 004. Suggest retail \$15.95.

Royal Models "Driver Knows" vehicle distance markers. Kit number 088. Suggested retail \$6.95.

Tamiya Panzer IV On-Vehicle Equipment Set. Kit number 35185. Suggested retail \$8.00.

References

German Light Reconnaissance Vehicles, by Horst Scheibert, Schiffer Publishing 1993. Lots of the good shots of our friend and a good description of the series to help you sort out the various types. Bargain priced, too at \$9.95

Die Gepanzerten Radfahrzeuge Des Deutschen Heeres 1905-1945, by Walter J. Spielberger, Motor Buch Verlag, 1984. Easy for you to say... German text story of armored cars. Light on the 222, but it does include a few interior shots.

God, Honor, Fatherland - A Photo History of Panzergrenadier Division "Grossdeutschland" on the Eastern front 1942-1944, by Thomas McGuirl & Remy Spezzano, RZM Imports, 1997. The source of the above mentioned markings. Only one shot of the 222, but it's worth having if you're into the German stuff. It's chock full of uniform and vehicle pictures.

Char Grilled

Commanders slips another one in with this French WWII tank



The Char D infantry tanks were developed during the French rearmament between WWI and WWII. They were first classified as light tanks and were descendants of the Renault NC tanks. They still had the same type of suspension, along with the same type of one man turret. They also were equipped with wireless communication when most French tanks used flags and flares.

The D1A weighed in at 12 tons, had a 37mm gun and 14 to 30mm's of armor. It had a crew of 3 and was powered by a 65 horse engine. The D1B was armed with a 47mm gun, had 35mm's of armor and was powered by a 100 hp engine. By the time production stopped in 1935 there were a total of 160 built. By 1935 the Char D tanks were reclassified as medium tanks.

The new up armored D2 weighed in at 16 tons and had 40mm of armor. A 150 hp six cylinder power pack sprinted the D2 along at about 15 mph. To those who sprint along at km/h, it was close to 25.

The Char D2 was equipped with a Puteaux

cast APX-1 turret, which was used on the Char B1 as well, and by 1938 Renault had produced only 50 D2's.

On to the kit

Commanders did a nice job on this kit, the cast texture on the turret is nicely done, as well as the armored surface of the hull. This is a full resin kit, including the individual resin track links.

The hull is cast as one piece (including the fend-

ers). This worked out quite well and to my surprise the fenders came out nice and thin. You will have to handle this kit very carefully all the way through construction—that is how thin these fenders are.

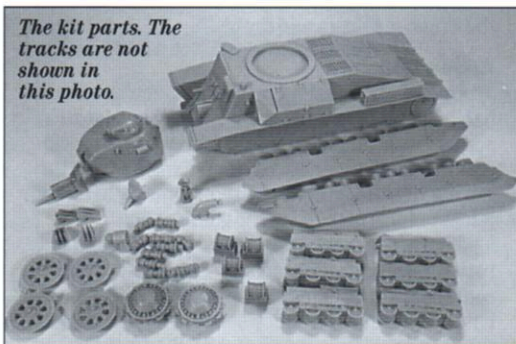
The underside of the hull had a slight under pour spanning its full length. It was not too bad; I just filled it with auto body lacquer putty. This to me is better than having an over pour, as I do not like sanding and grinding large amounts of resin.

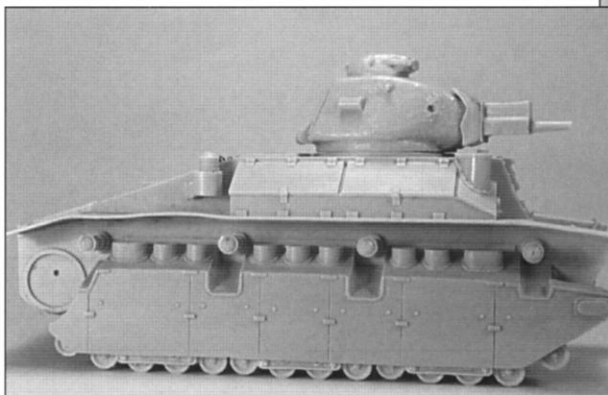
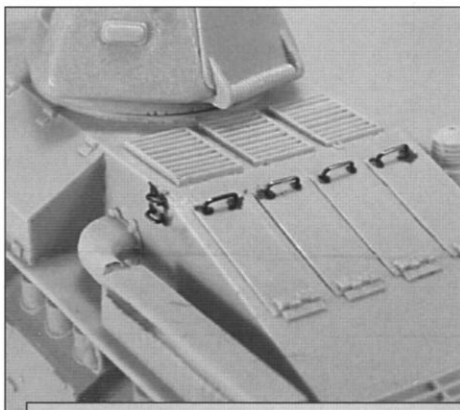
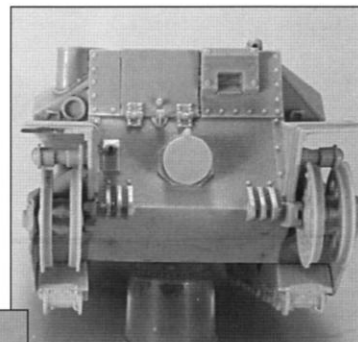
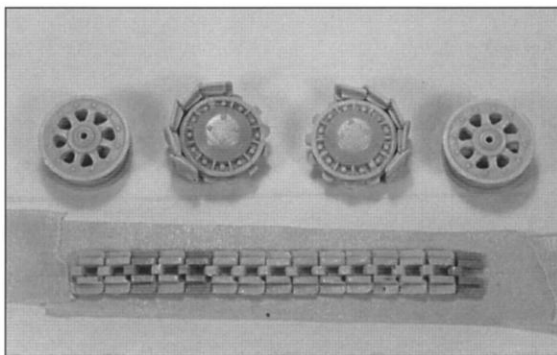
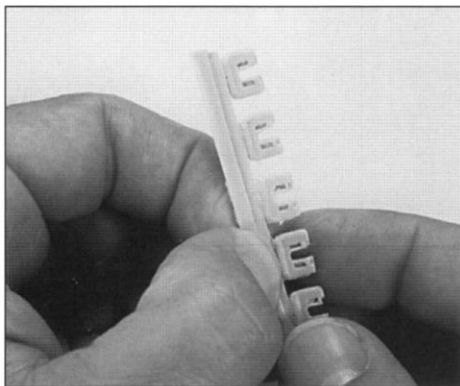
The sponsons are cast together with the armored doors that cover the suspension components. These pieces are nicely detailed and the doors also are very thin, so be careful handling these parts as well. This is quite a casting process. It sure looks better than some of the over thick castings on some resin kits.

The idler wheel is cast in two pieces and the sprocket is cast as one. I left them off until after the tank was painted.

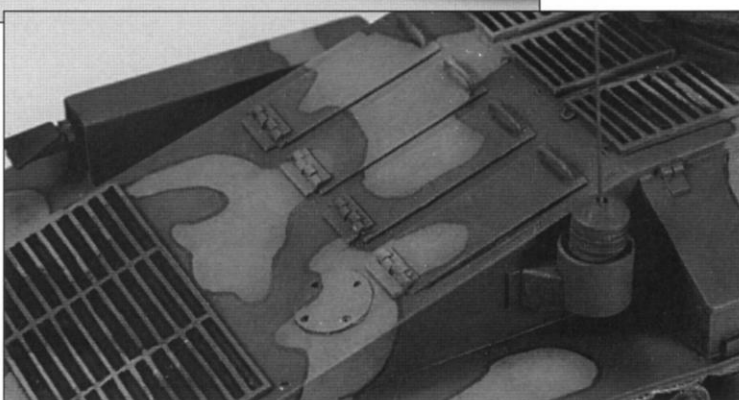
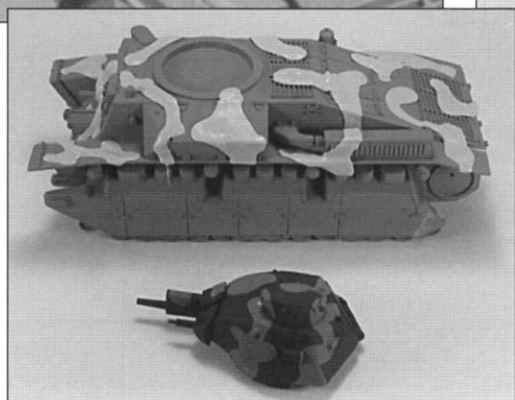
Be sure all your suspension pieces line up good and straight. If you don't do this, you will have trouble lining up your track links later on. I assembled a short length of track early on to

The kit parts. The tracks are not shown in this photo.

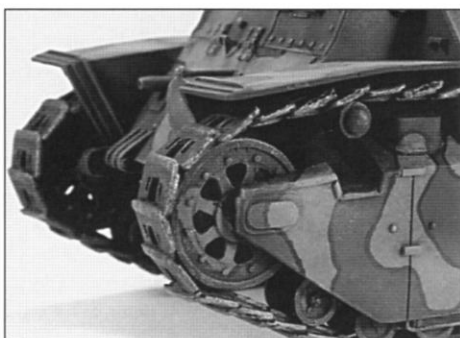




Upper left: just place your thumb nail at the base of the link and snap it off. Don't worry, there are plenty of extras. Above center: this was taken early on. I ended up gluing 3 links to the idler as well. Above right: make sure to keep things in line here or you'll have trouble installing the tracks. Far left: this is my added detail. The marks were there but not the wire. I used .013 wire. Left: be careful handling the hull, these nicely cast fenders are very thin. You can see where mine were broken.



Below left: it may sound silly but it worked for me. Below right: the engine deck detail. Bottom two shots: close ups of the idler and the drive sprockets.



help dry fit the suspension parts. To make sure the track had a natural appearance, I filed a flat spot at the top of each return roller. The road wheels were filed this way as well.

The only hull fittings left to assemble are the antenna mount, cast muffler elbow, tail pipe, rear towing pintle, and rear clevis hooks. The instructions do not give a clear rear view of where to mount the towing pintle and the rear clevis hooks. The towing pintle is placed at the top center of the rear plate and the clevis hooks are located at the bottom of the rear plate, as shown in the photo of the finished model.

There is not much to attach to the turret, just the 47mm main gun and the MG.

Added details

One of the details I added was engine access hatch handles from .013 wire. The hull had location points for the handles but the wire was not provided. I also added a length of chain hanging from the towing pintle and an antenna made from a ((screaming)) high E electric guitar string.

There are very small chains that connect between each armored door on the side sponsons, I could not find an appropriate size chain to use here, but it would sure be a nice detail to add, if you get the chance. All around photos of the Char D2 are

hard to find but this detail can be found in the reference listing at the end of this article.

As I put this in the mail, Commanders informed me that all the kits now have photo-etched chain for this detail. My Char was a pre-production kit and was not shipped with the chain.

Painting

The paint ahh... definitely two tone ochre and army green with a black demarcation line. Who could resist painting the typical two tone or three tone French camo outlined with black? The D2 usually wore the two tone scheme, sometimes but not always outlined with black.

The paint job started with a base of Humbrol Ochre no. 86. Once this was good and dry, I masked off an appropriate camo pattern with Silly Putty. Do not try this at home unless you first run a test on the paint you are using. I had an instance where Silly Putty darkened the paint underneath and it happened to be Humbrol. This technique works great when you need a hard edge camouflage. There is nothing special about using Silly Putty. The masking can be done with a brush, but I felt like doing it this way. Besides, I like the way it snuggles down over details that are sometimes difficult to paint with a brush.

To those of you who do not know what Silly



Left: the instructions do not give this view and this is where the towing pintle and clevis hook are located. Below: don't sneak up on the Char, man! The finished paint job worked out O.K. I added the demarcation lines on the camouflage with a Figma Micron .005 ink marker. I found it in the model railroad section at my local shop. I hand painted the diamond on a white circle made from a decal. I could have done better on the diamond a few years ago—my arms are not as short as they used to be.



Putty is (and I know there are a few), it is a soft, bouncy, stretchy, yucky kind of putty sold in toy stores just about everywhere.

Anyway... once the pattern was masked, it was over sprayed as soon as possible with Floquil French Khaki. Silly Putty has a tendency to spread with time, so I was ready to paint as soon as I finished the masking. The black demarcation lines were put on with a Figma Micron .005 ink marker from the model rail road section at the local hobby shop. This marker puts down a very thin (0.20mm) line which required about three passes to get the needed width. This was put on just before the dry brushing.

The rest of the painting was done with a typical oil wash to represent shadows and a dry brushing with lightened base colors to represent highlights.

Before moving on to the tracks, I made sure I sprayed Future floor wax on the areas that were going to get decals.

Assemble the Tracks-Paint the tracks-Install the tracks

I am one of those odd balls who likes individual track links but, when I heard that these were going to be in resin I was a little nervous. As it turns out they were not that bad. I saved this step for last, after the model was painted. There are plenty of extra links so don't worry.

The way I separated them from the runner was to place my thumb nail at the base of the link and just snap them off. After a little clean up, I glued five links around each sprocket and three links around each idler. I then made up various lengths of track and dry fit them to the tank. The various lengths were then set aside to be painted.

I painted as many track sections as I could while they were off the tank. This made things quite a bit easier, although some of the sections had to be painted while on the tank.

I started with a base coat of Model Master Euro

I Gray. I then applied an oil wash of burnt sienna and flat black cut with turpentine. Once this had set up, I took burnt umber mixed with silver enamel and dry brushed with a medium pressure. Then I added more silver and dry brushed with a lighter pressure and did it again lighter yet. For a final finish, I dry brushed very lightly with straight silver.

The best way I found to put the tracks on the tank was to start at the sprocket first and work your way up to the idler. Fortunately the idler is adjustable, which makes the task of combining the top and bottom runs easy.

The Markings

Some pre-war French tanks had the names of famous battles from WWI painted on their front hulls and/or both sides of their turrets. When WWII broke out, the names were painted over with card symbols. The Spade was 1st section, the Heart was 2nd, the Diamond was 3rd and the Club was 4th.

The 19e BCC (Bataillon de Chars de Combat) which served with DeGaulle's 4e DCR (Armored Division) carried a white circle on the front and rear of the vehicle, although no one seems to know why.

I decided on marking my D2 with the 1st company 3rd section. This required a white circle on each side of the turret for the company and a red diamond in the circle for the section. The white circle is a decal and the diamond was painted by hand. Am I showing my age? I know I could have painted that diamond better a few years back. The card symbols usually were painted over the names, but the style of letters kept me from hand painting what little remains. I am not aware of anyone producing decals with these particular names. My first thought was of Verlinden's French tank markings, but they have been discontinued.

The serial numbers (matricules, as the French call them) were made up with spare decals. No. 2015 is the number I chose.

The white circles on the front and rear of the hull were represented with decals as well.

At this point, everything was coated with Testors Dullcote and the front and lower sides of the vehicle were lightly dry brushed with Model Master Armor Sand to represent dust thrown up from the road.

Conclusion

I had been wanting to build a French tank for quite some time now and this one came along at just the right time. The finished model looks good and... very French. It shouldn't take too long to build and most of your efforts will be with the individual track links and the French camouflage. I recommend this kit and I think while I'm in this French mode I will go after the Char 2C Char du Rupture next. Enjoy! 

—Barry Beaudry

MMiR RECCE

Commander Series Models, Inc. French WWII Char D2 Infantry Tank. Kit number 1-049. Kit graciously provided by the manufacturer. Suggested retail price \$85.00.

References

- Blitzkrieg Armor Camouflage & Markings, 1939-1940* by Steven J. Zaloga Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc. 1115 Crowley Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006
- World War Two Tanks* by George Forty Osprey, Great Britain, 1996, ISBN 1-85532-582-9
- Les Vehicules Blindes Francais 1900-1944* by Touzin (1974).
- Chars d'Assault* by Touzin (1970)
- Mai-Juin 1940 Les Blindes Francais* by McNair (1990).

WESPE SIDE STORY PART DEUX

We get really serious with an all out war on the little Tamiya Wespe



Super-detailing parts, when should they be used? What can you accomplish with them? Their relatively high cost coupled with limited availability has no doubt kept many modelers from experiencing this aspect of the hobby, either by choice or simple lack of exposure. If you are among this group of AFV modelers, read on! We'll be happy to introduce you to the full glory of this realm. But be forewarned... few have returned from the super-detailing twilight zone unscathed, and we can take no responsibility for the fate of individual modelers who choose to continue at their own risk! Ready?

Think first. Then we'll talk.

What's the point of super-detailing a model in the first place? Manufacturers of injection-plastic kits like Tamiya and DML/Dragon face cost and technical considerations when producing a kit that prevents the product from being an exact miniature of the original straight out of the box. This is through no fault of the manufacturers'—they're trying quite hard. In fact, if one takes a look at any of the recent releases by the major firms, it is clear they are turning out a product rich in detail that can withstand serious scrutiny as it is.

Nevertheless, many modelers possess a limitless

desire to create something that is as close as possible to the original object. And "super-detailing" is the way by which these modelers attempt to satisfy this craving. Not only that, it is a way for modelers to take something that anybody can do and turn it into something that only they have done, and then enjoy all the pleasure that comes with the feeling of knowing that you have something truly unique on your hands. Completing a project like that, and then showing it off to others... this is one of the great pleasures of modeling we all enjoy, right? Thanks to the relatively-recent introduction (to the world of AFV modeling, anyway) of manufacturing processes like resin casting, metal casting and photo-etching, it has become significantly easier to create an AFV model that is quite a bit closer to the original than ever before. If you're prepared to shell out the money, you can acquire amazing super-detailing parts for just about any kit you can think of. It's truly a golden era for super-detailers.

However, with the introduction of so many after-market parts these days, there seem to be quite a few modelers who no longer are content to simply model; for them, super-detailing has become an end in itself. There appear to be two schools of thought on this. One says "if I just buy enough after-market parts, I can create a masterpiece," while the other argues that "Adding tons of after-market

parts to a kit is something anybody can do, if they're simply willing to spend the money."

Adding after-market parts to an injection-plastic kit does take a certain amount of technical skill and creativity. But by the same token, simply adding a bunch of parts to an existing kit does not automatically create a masterwork. After all, trimming fenders down to be a more accurate thickness requires no additional parts, but it's a form of super-detailing. And a good paint job can turn a kit built straight out of the box into a breathtakingly realistic miniature.

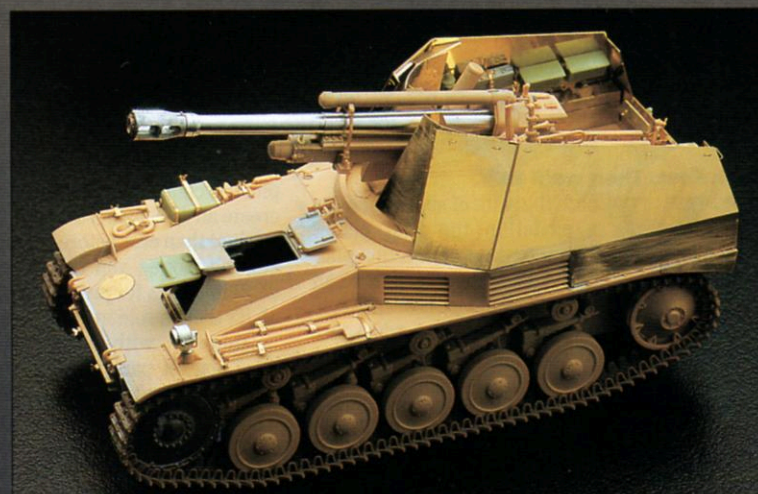
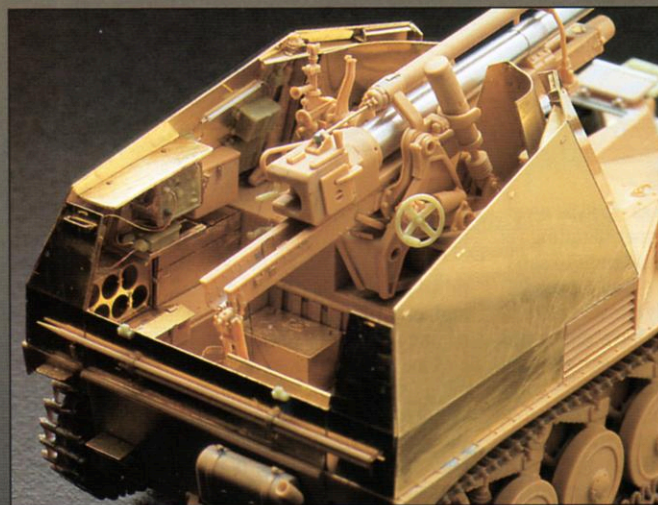
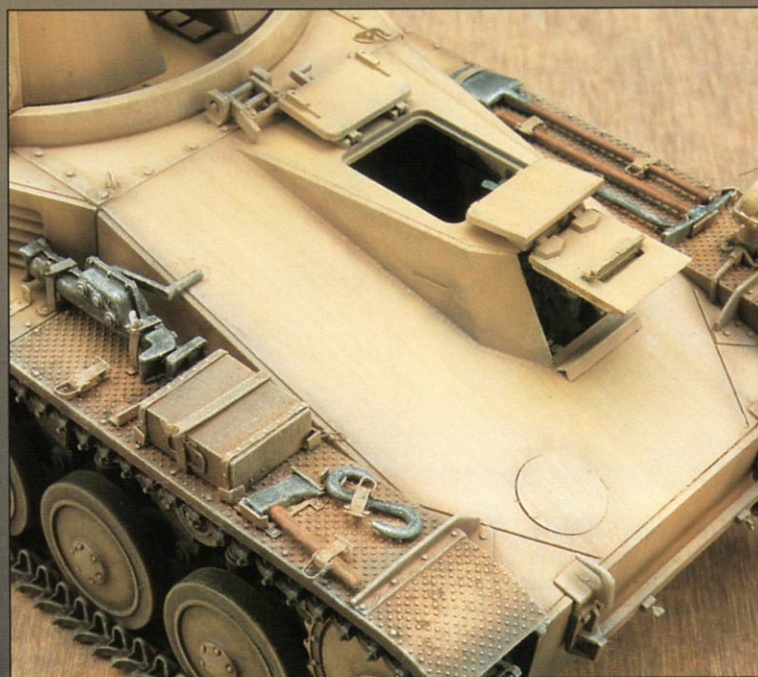
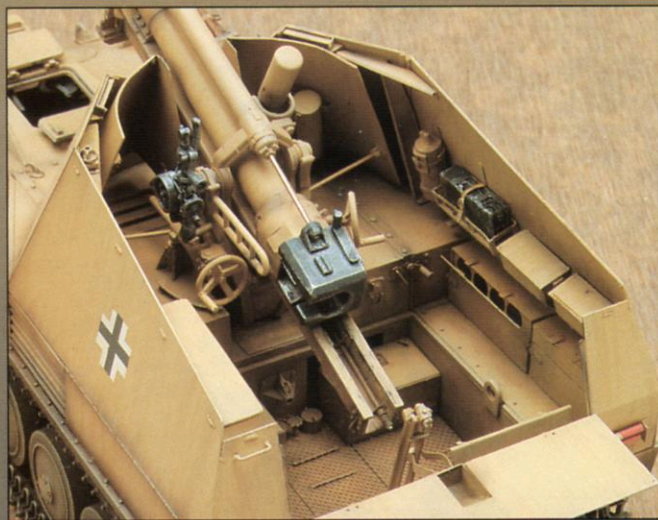
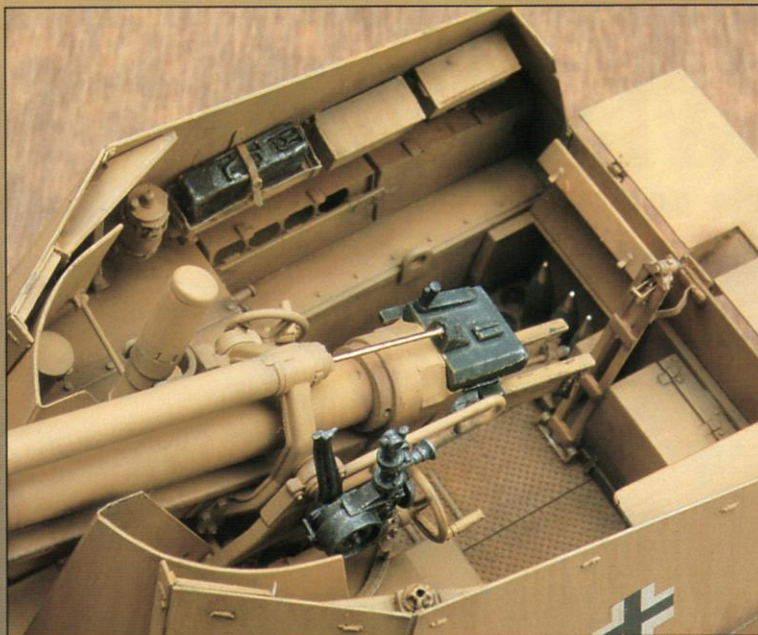
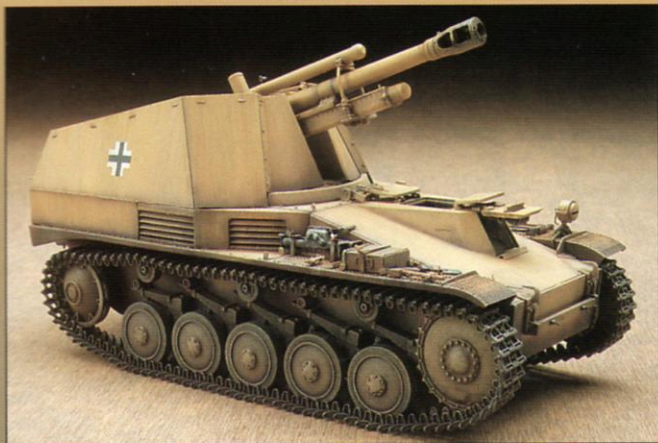
What's important is taking a careful look at your creation and making a judgment for yourself about what it really needs, and what it can do without.

So let's set out on a voyage across this sea known as "super-detailing." No doubt there will be failures and retreats from time to time, but the journey is sure to ultimately provide you with a sense of excitement and satisfaction that you won't be able to get elsewhere. The lure of this sea can be powerful indeed, and some of you may never be able to return to where you started once it's in your veins...

Detail on Parade: The Open-top Wespe.

For this feature, I decided to use the open-top Wespe, which by its very nature shows off added

Continued on page 37

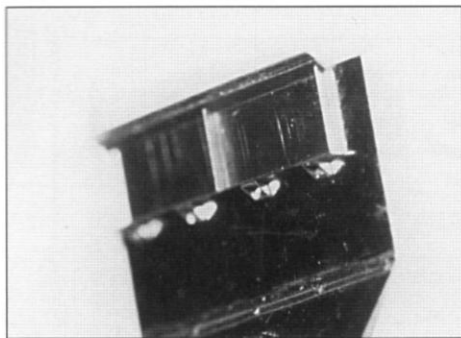


The fruits of 70 hours of labor. The Tamiya kit is of such a high level of quality to start with that the super-detailed areas don't end up standing out from the rest of the tank. If you start with a poor kit, super-detailing only parts of it can make the whole thing unbalanced.

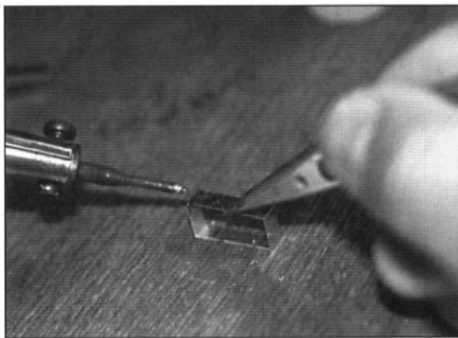
Many photos exist of Wespes with shell heads stacked all over the open rear panel, but I chose not to place any to avoid a too gaudy appearance. The red and white pole's colors can be subdued effectively if you dirty it up a bit at the joints between the color zones. Without doing that, it attracts far too much attention to itself.

If you look through the hatches, you can just see some of the interior parts, but when you bring your face close for a good look, your own shadow makes it impossible to see the details. Sort of a masochistic experience...

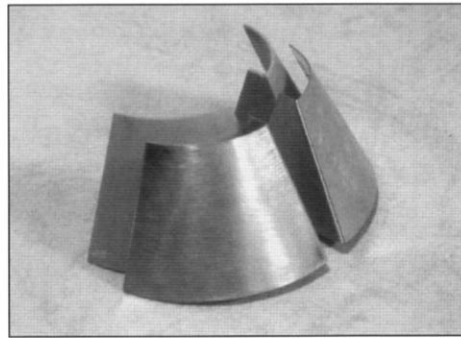
I modified the gun assembly so that it can be set into place and later removed. However, it's got so many extra parts added to it that it must be handled with extreme care to avoid damage. For a good reference to the fighting compartment, I strongly recommend Panzers at Saumur #3.



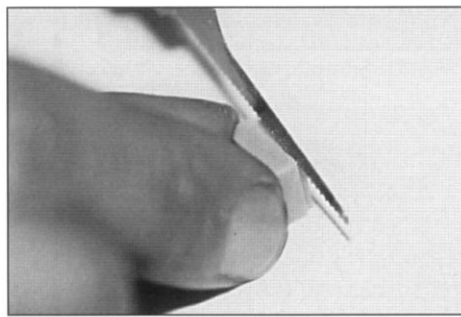
Once you get the hang of it, you can solder even complex items like this. Taking your time is the key. And you can always redo it if you make a mistake.



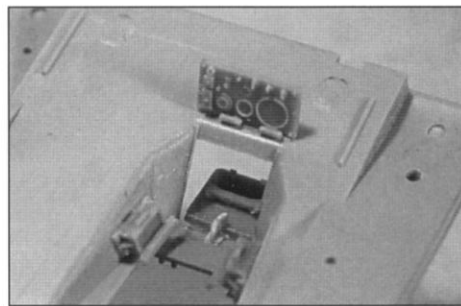
The soldering process. This gives the parts infinitely more strength than using instant glue. Getting good at it takes lots of practice, however.



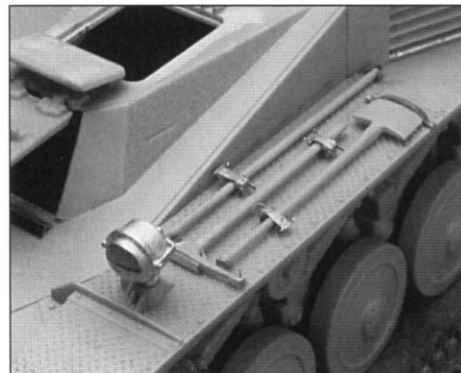
The front plates were carefully bent to duplicate the curve of the Tamiya parts. Great care must be taken not to get a crease in an unwanted place.



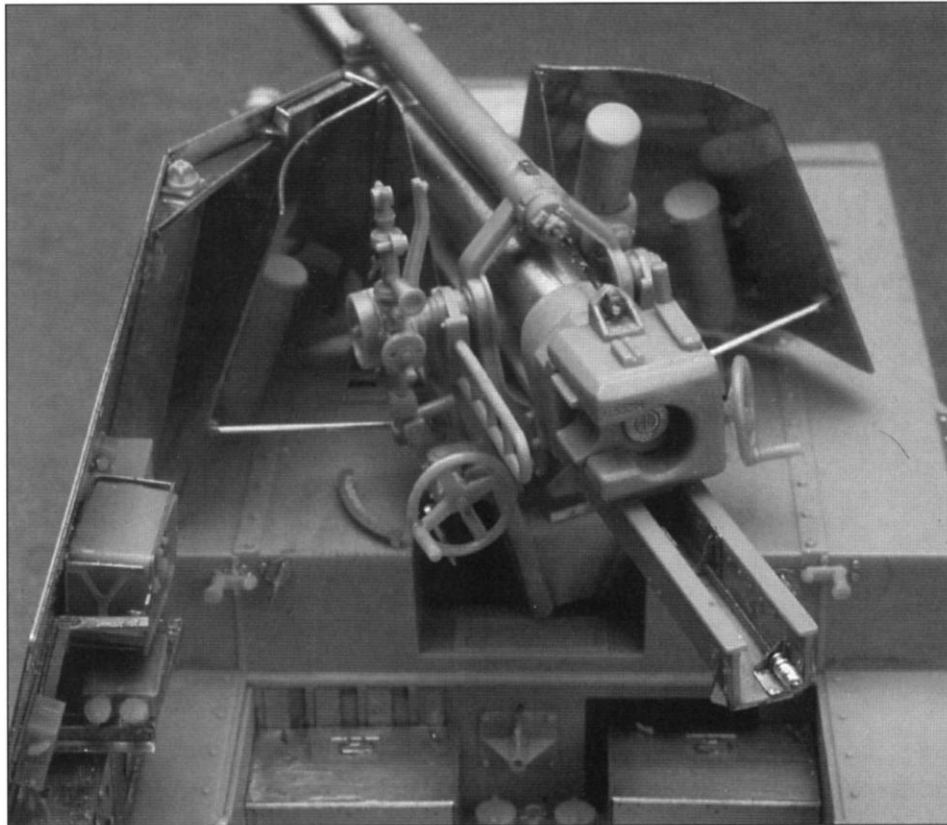
Take your time when trimming resin parts. Their size makes them difficult to work with. Use good-quality knives, modeling saws and files and things will be a bit easier.



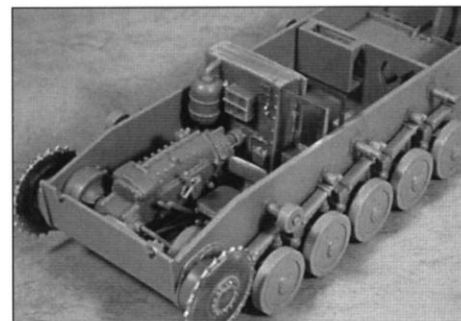
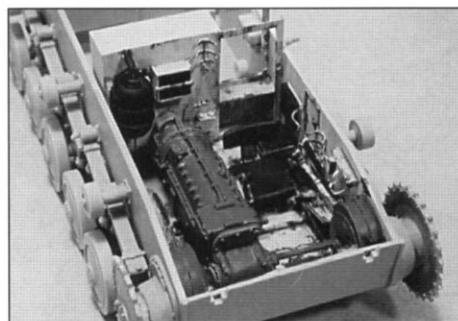
The periscope and instrument panel in place inside the lower hull. The instrument panel is completely hidden when the kit is finished.



Royal photo-etched stopper parts are superb. Small projections on the fender used to position the parts were cut away after the parts were in place.



Above: the fighting compartment shown mostly completed. Note that only the left side armor plate has been added. The fit is so precise you have to take into consideration the thickness of the paint, or things may not go back together the way you had planned. Below left: this whole engine assembly is hidden after completion. Hey, if it makes you happy, go for it. Below right: interior parts were assembled and test fit before painting.



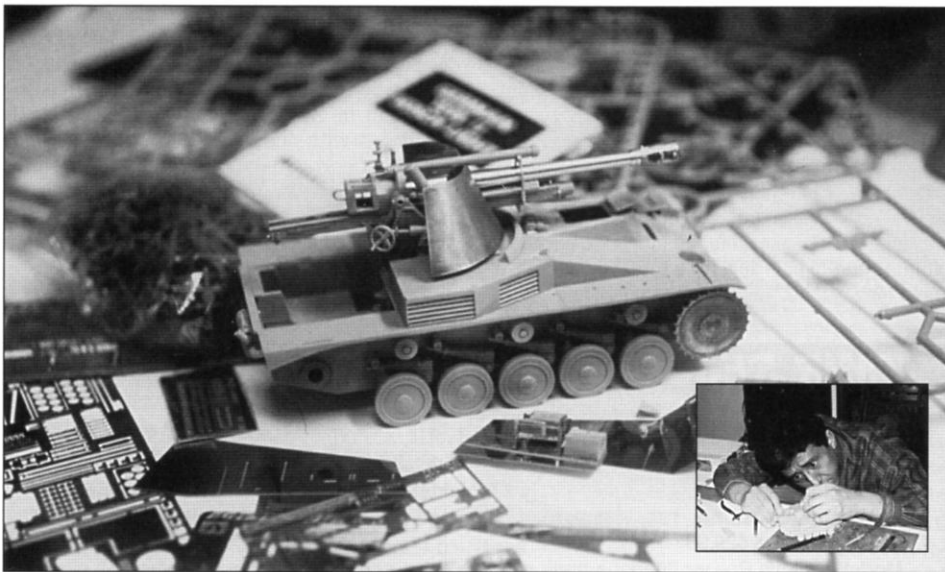
detail quite well. On the kit, I used three different resin and photo-etched sets from Italy's Royal Models, as well as Friulmodellismo metal drive sprockets. I added Jordi Rubio's turned-aluminum barrel and muzzle brake which come from Spain. The kit itself, which is Tamiya, as well as ModelKasten Panzer II working track links and

white metal Bosch lights, comes from Japan.

These days, when a major manufacturer releases a new kit, a virtual downpour of after market parts for the kit follows quickly. This often can be quite confusing to someone trying to decide just what to add to their kit. For the sake of illustration, I decided to add every after-market set for the

Wespe that I could find. Just how much you add to your own models is, of course, entirely up to you.

The highlight of my efforts on this kit was the Royal after-market sets, thoughtfully divided into three different sets (driver's compartment set, interior/exterior detail set, and fighting compartment armor plate set) to allow the modeler to choose



The whole point of this article was not to build the best Wespe, but simply to try to cram every after-market part available for it onto one kit. As such, I made no decisions along the way about whether a particular part was appropriate or not, I just used it. Sometimes, it was a bit trying!

exactly what level of detail they want to work with.

Anyhow, let's get on to the actual process. With so many after-market parts on the table, it was practically covered with instruction sheets and I had little idea where to begin. I finally decided to begin with the lower hull and driver's compartment detail. The Royal set includes a resin engine, floor plates and compartment walls. The parts come attached to the resin runners, but with the flat parts, it's often difficult to determine where runner ends and part begins.

Worse, the instruction sheet left much to be

desired, with big arrows just pointing at areas within the tank as parts locations. You have to determine on your own exact part orientations, surfaces to be cemented and the like. If you have a good library of photos of the real thing available, you should be able to work through it without too much trouble, but if you don't, then you have little choice but to leave your fate up to the Panzer gods. Years ago, a good friend warned me about attempting too many modifications to models. "You do too much of that, and the Panzer gods will strike you," he cautioned, and in retrospect, he was right. Throughout

the whole process, they made me pay dearly for what I was trying to accomplish.

Well, it's not quite that bad, but having some resources handy will really help. I've mentioned a few at the end of this article and the accompanying photos should help, too.

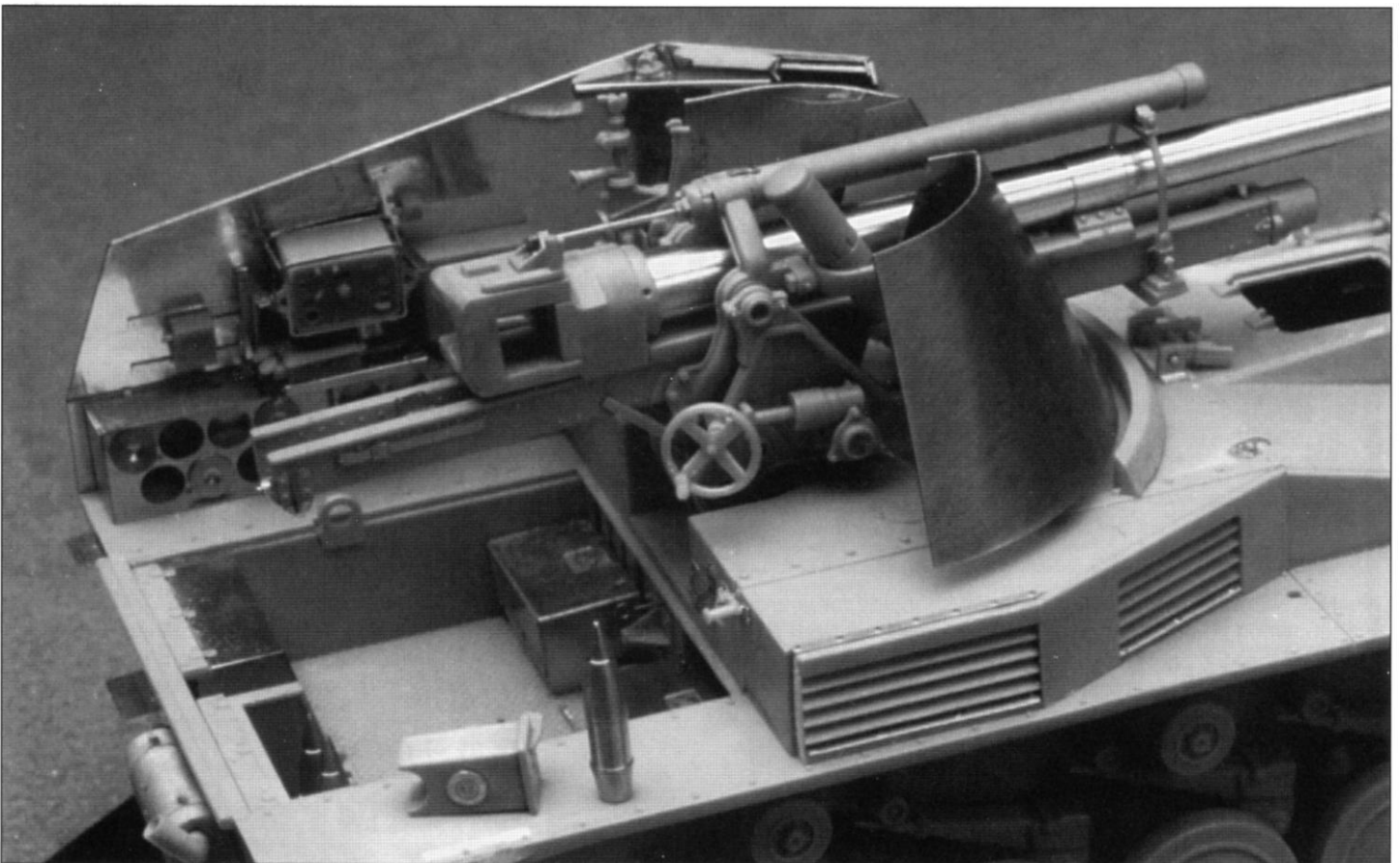
The Royal resin parts are unbelievably detailed, but like many resin parts are quite fragile. Small details broke off a few times while assembling them. I suppose you just have to accept this as one of the realities of working with after-market parts. In order to keep track of your progress, I found it quite helpful to use a red pen on the instructions to check off the parts as I installed them. Things can sometimes start to look alike, and this proved quite helpful in keeping track of what was happening.

After finishing off the interior, you probably will want to take some photos for posterity (I always do), as you will barely be able to see those parts once the vehicle is completed. The fighting compartment, however, will be quite prominent after completion. For this area, the Tamiya gun breech is used as is. The armor plates, however, are replaced with the Royal ones. To achieve the proper curve, I bent the parts around bottles of various sizes until I got close, and then pressed them against the actual Tamiya parts to complete the job.

The Jordi aluminum barrel fit the Tamiya parts perfectly. The white metal muzzle brake, however, though a nice effort, looked a little soft, so I used the Tamiya piece and spiced it up with photo-etched parts that came with the Royal set. In hindsight, the Jordi set probably wasn't needed at all.

Royal Models' Parts. Pushing the Modeler to the Brink.

Properly assembling the side and front walls of the Wespe with Royal photo-etched parts takes great nerves and supreme patience. Getting the



angles just right takes the most time, as well as the alignment between the front and side plates. If you're off by even a tiny bit, the gun won't be able to traverse. The fit is so close that even after I completed assembly, the thickness of the coat of paint that was applied caused the front plates to start rubbing against the side plates again!

For those of you who have read this far and are shaking your head, I recommend you use only Royal detail set #135. This set also includes a number of tiny parts that will test your nerves, but it's not that complicated. That said, I'll confess that it took me a full 20 minutes to cement a single butterfly nut into place on the gun sight, severely testing my patience. Can't some company develop an instant glue that will adhere to parts, but not to tweezers?

Now the gun assembly can be added. Rather than lock it down using the pin system included with the Tamiya kit, I simply set it into place so that it could be removed again later to ease painting.

Finally comes the ModelKasten track assembly job. Take care when filing the excess plastic from the head of the link pins. If you take too much off, they won't hold the links together very well.

Up to this point I had spent 55 hours on the model and it was time for painting. I used Gunze's Mr. Color Sandy Brown, and added a little white to create a WWII German Dark Yellow.

After airbrushing this over the entire vehicle, I sprayed a coat of dark brown on the lower hull, tracks and suspension. I then dry-brushed earth color over this whole lower area.

Rather than painting the rubber part of the road wheels black or gray separately and then dry-brushing them, I just dry-brushed them lightly with a dark gray and it provided a very realistic appearance that took relatively little time to complete.

Now we were getting close to completion. Photo-etched parts assembled with instant glue tend to get knocked off pretty easily when dry-brushing (I guess I should have soldered them) so I hand-painted highlights with light colors.

To complete the job, I added the vertical rain stains with dark enamels, lightly dry-brushed the edges of the armor plates, and then gave the whole thing a light overcoat of a medium gray acrylic. It was four in the morning. I had spent 55 hours building and 15 painting, for a total 70 hour job. It was a long battle... "Let's see, five hours left before

I have to take this thing over to the photo studio. Maybe I should get a little sleep," I thought. I started to clean up my work area and picked up one of the plastic film cases that I had used to mix my own paint in. Attempting to close the lid while grasping it with one hand, I dropped the whole thing and flecks of paint unerringly landed on the front and side armor plate of the Wespe which had been sitting about ten inches away. My friend was right. The Panzer gods had struck. I was an hour late getting to the photo studio.

—Hiroyuki Nakada

MMiR RECCE

Tamiya's Wespe. Kit number 35200. Suggested retail, \$39.00.

Royal Models (Sd.Kfz. 124) Wespe Part 1 (interior details). Kit number 135. Suggested retail \$37.95.

Royal Models (Sd.Kfz. 124) Wespe Part 2 (shields). Kit number 136. Suggested retail \$29.95.

Royal Models (Sd.Kfz. 124) Wespe Interior Design (driver's compartment). Kit number 137. Suggested retail \$29.95.

ModelKasten's Panzer II/Wespe track set with drive sprocket (Friulmodellismo). Kit number SK-25D. Suggested retail \$43.95.

Jordi Rubio 10.5cm IFH 18M gun barrel. Kit number TG-37 (JR-37). Suggested retail \$9.95.

Tamiya's turned-brass Wespe shell set is, unfortunately, not sold in stores, but only available at Tamiya-sponsored events and hobby shows. HobbyLink Japan is known to stock them. The set is not issued with a stock number. Tamiya's turned-brass shell set for the StuG does contain these same rounds (along with 7.5cm rounds and charges), albeit only four. This is kit number 35198. Suggested retail \$14.50.

References

Panzers at Samur, No. 3, Dai Nippon Kaiga, 1992. From the same people who publish Model Graphix. Good but short section on the Wespe with all color photos.

Achtung Panzer articles in Model Graphix issues #138 to #141 by Mitsuru Bito. An excellent series if you can find the back issues.

Nut & Bolts Vol. 02 WESPE, 1996. Black and white shots of several surviving vehicles.

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Special Package Deal No. 1 - The Wespe

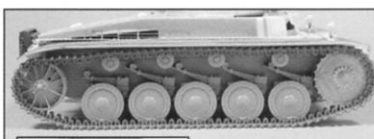


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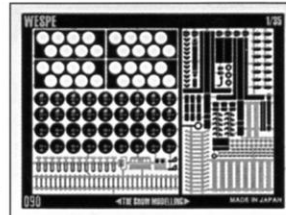
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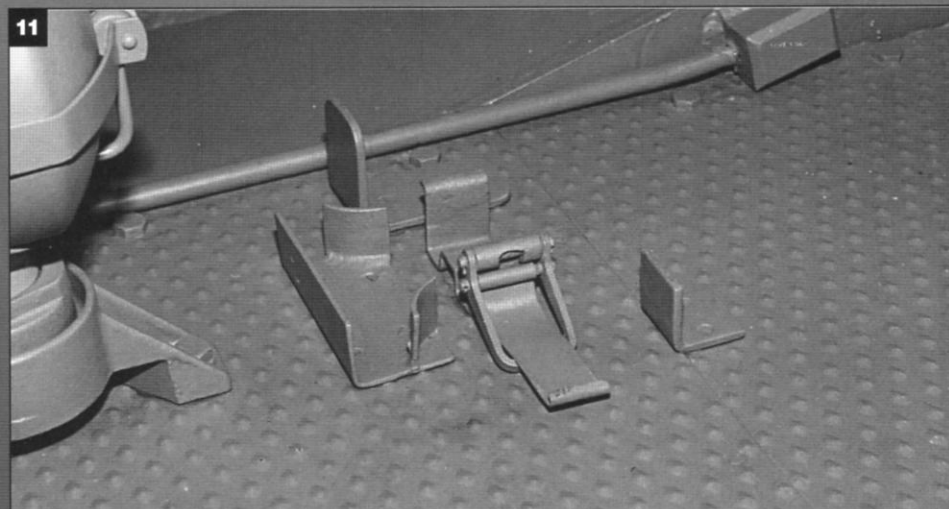
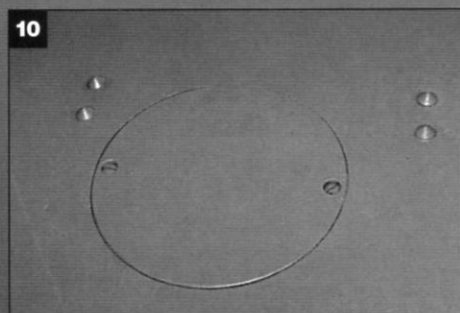
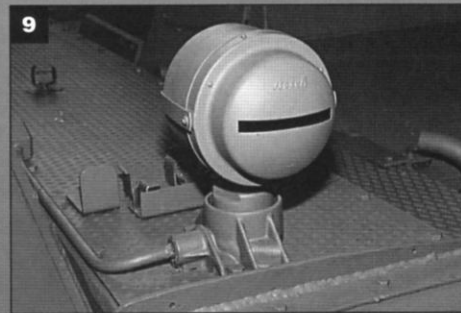
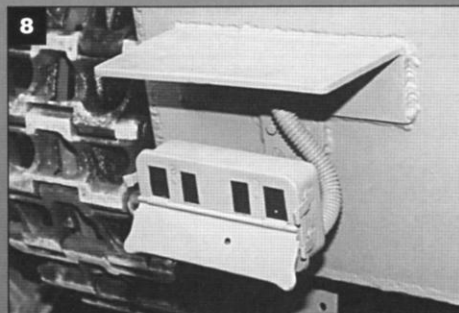
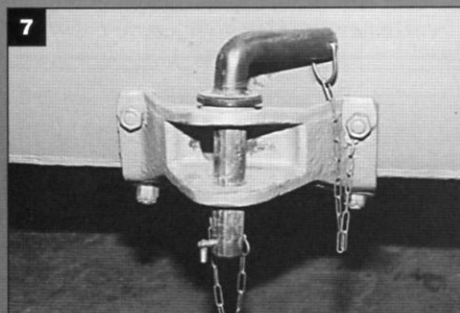
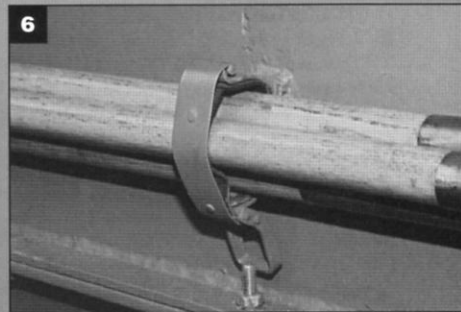
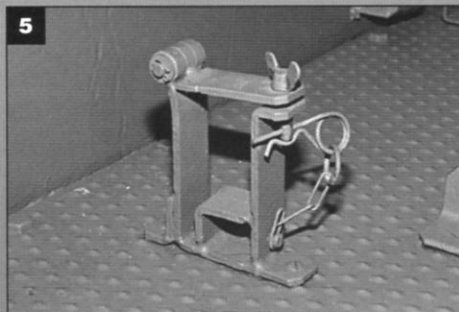
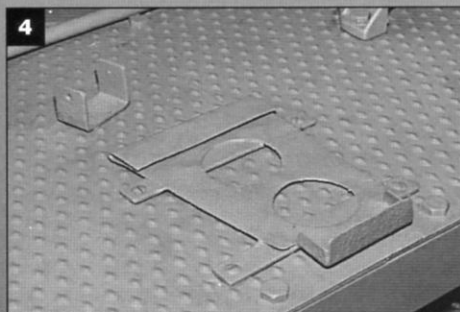
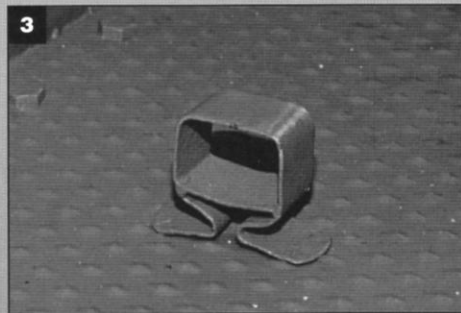
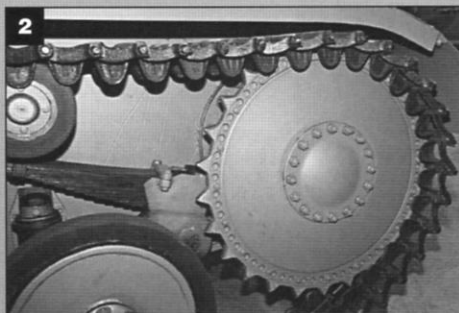
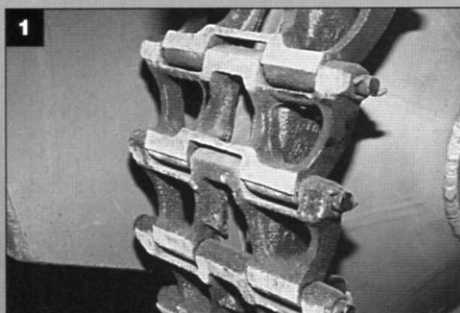
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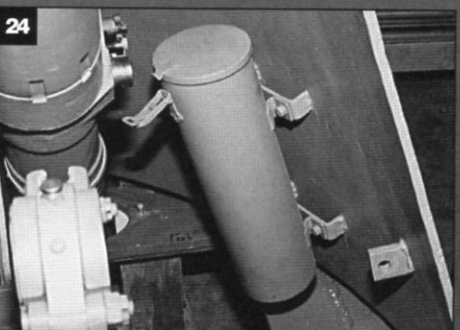
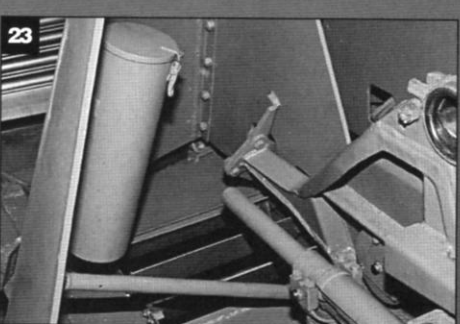
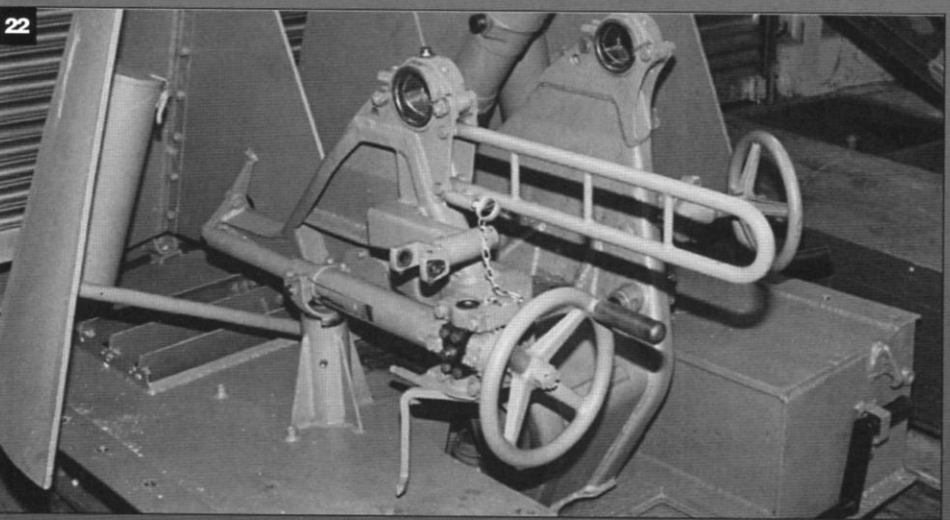
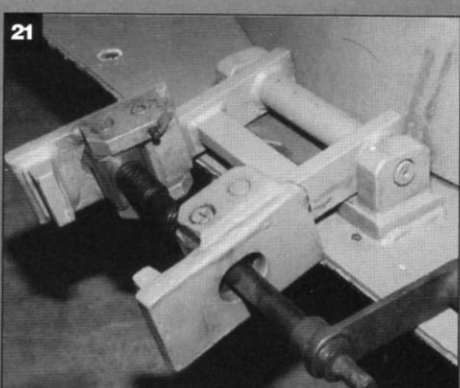
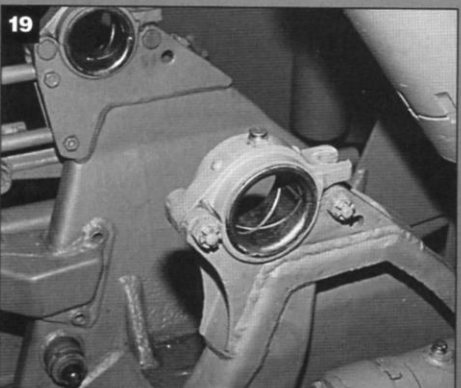
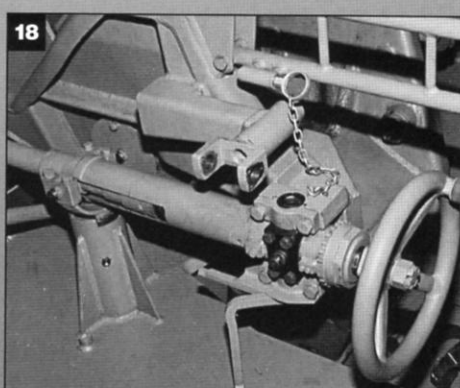
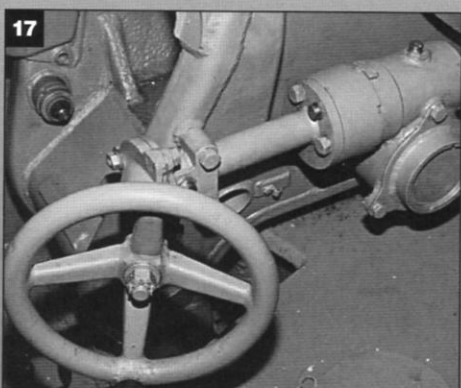
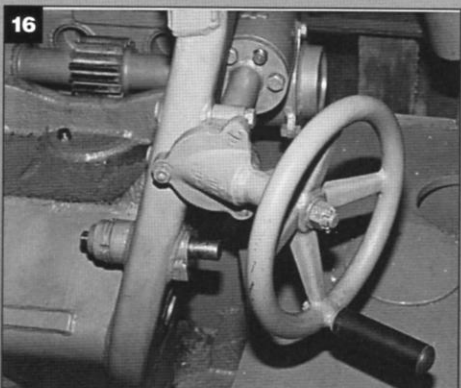
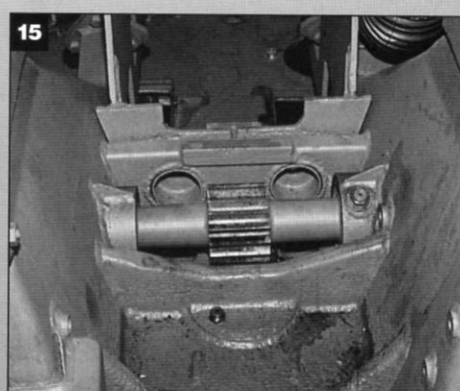
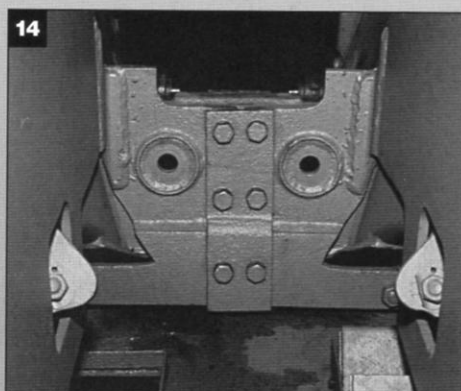
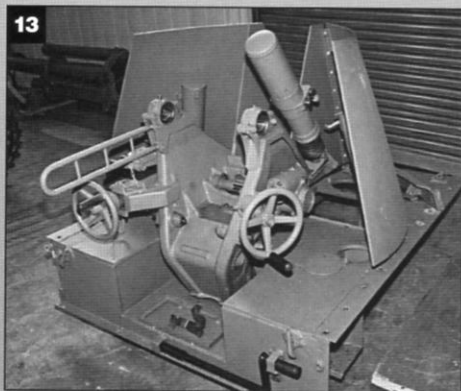
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Whatta Wespe

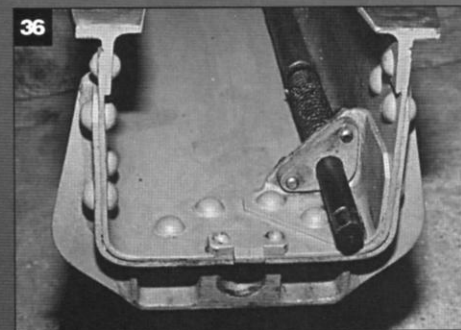
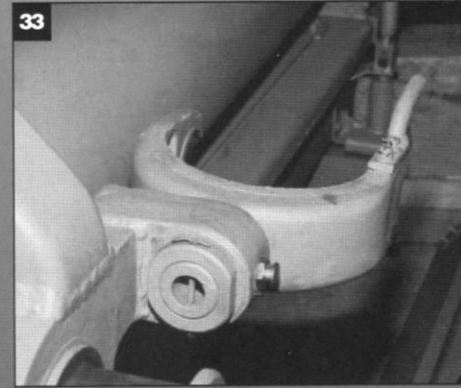
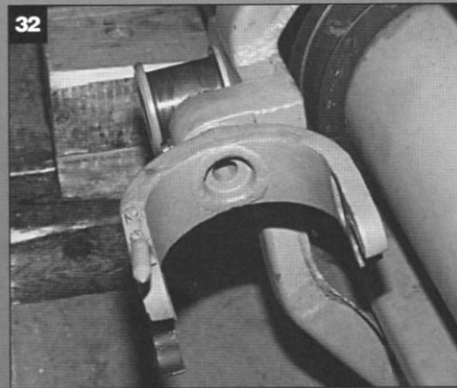
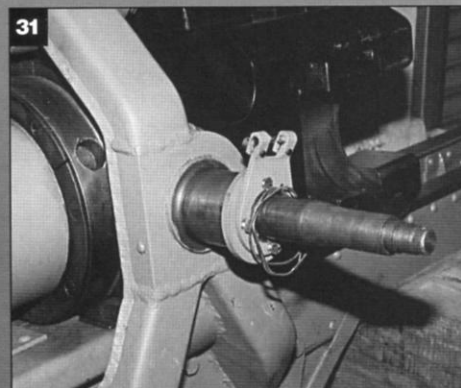
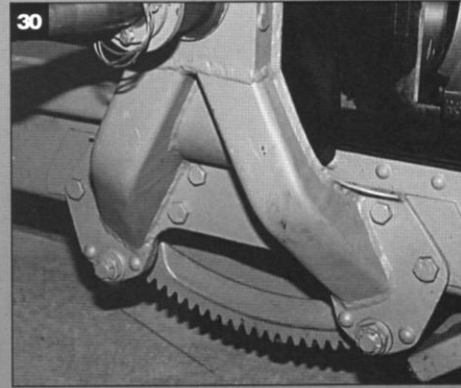
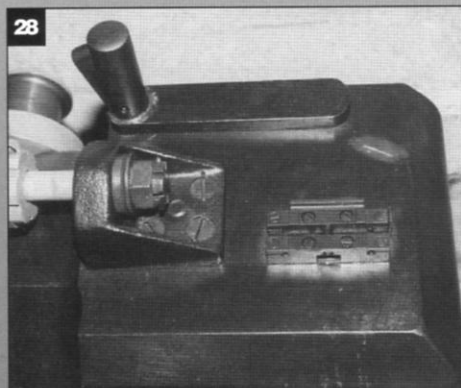
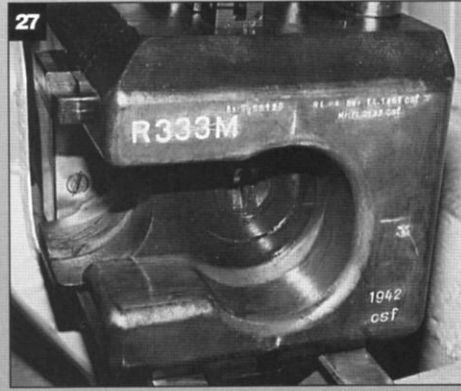
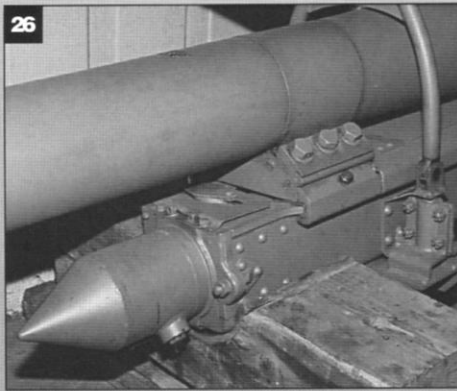
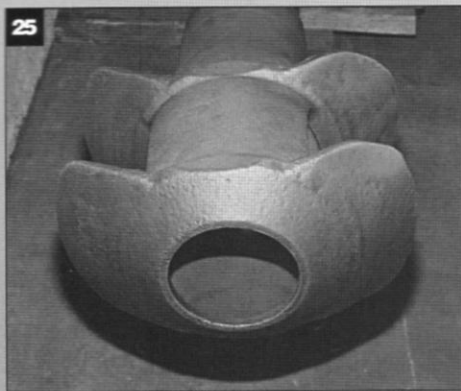
If the preceeding article didn't scare you off, here's a big 'ol pack of photos for the super detail minded.



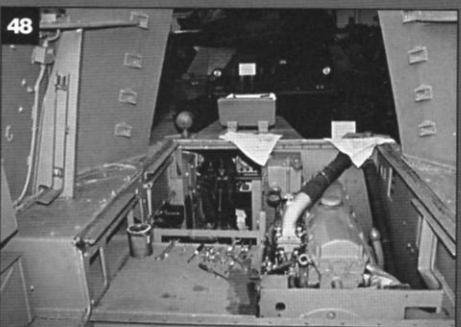
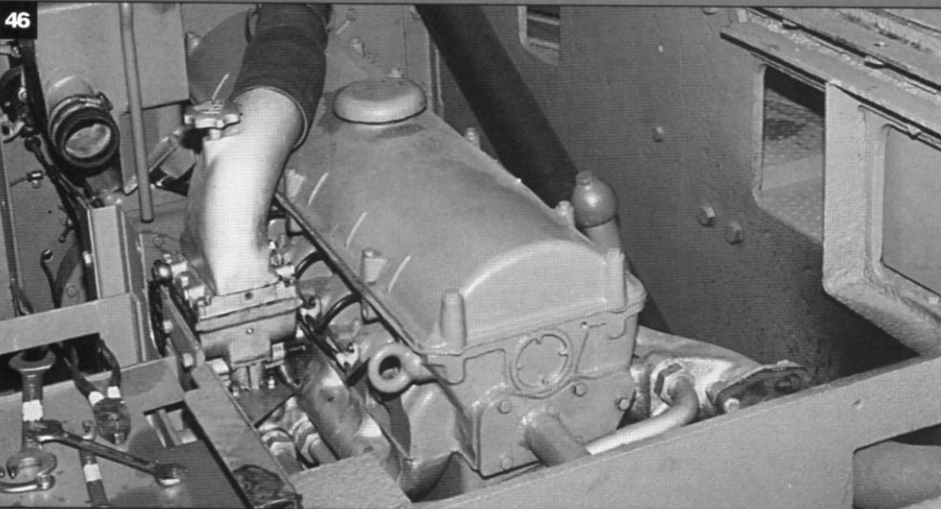
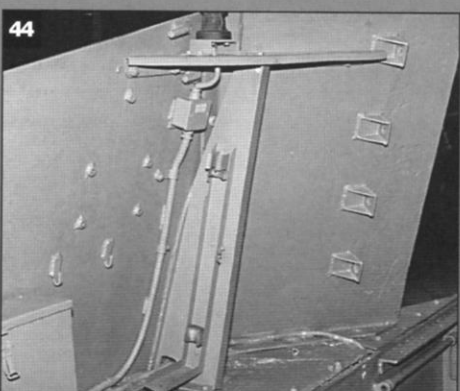
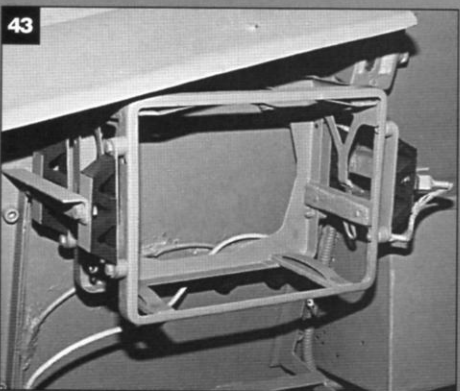
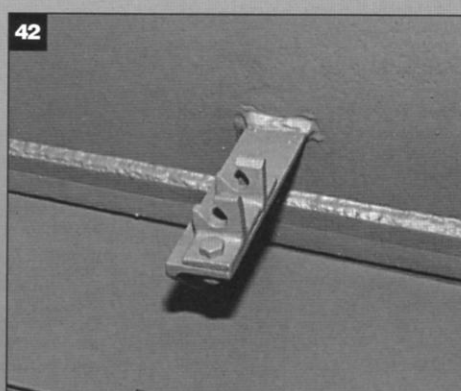
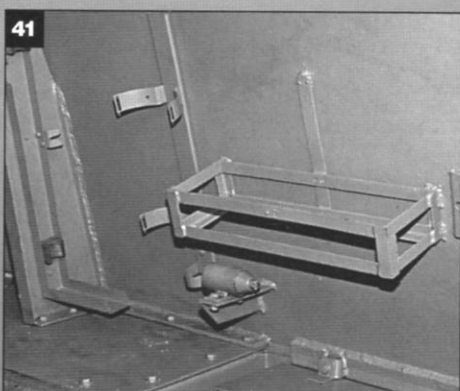
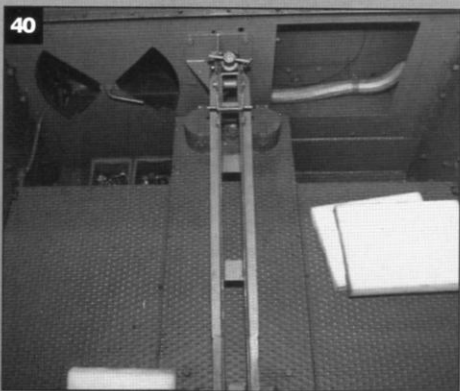
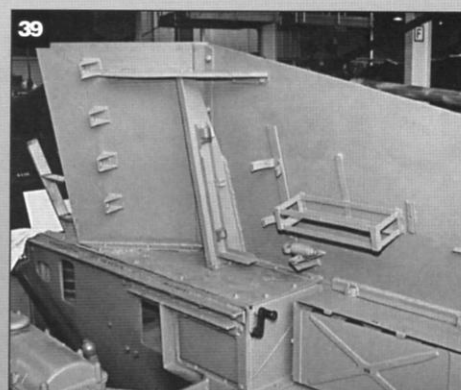
We recently had the rather unique opportunity to photograph the Koblenz Wespe while it was under going further restoration. The gun and trunion had been removed which afforded some unprecedented views of the interior. 1) The tracks as seen from the rear idler. Note the cotter pins. 2) The drive sprocket. 3) Retaining clip for the shovel on the left side fender. 4) Retaining hardware for the ax. 5) One of two brackets for the jack; right side. 6) Long clasp for the gun markers (one of two). 7) Towing pintle. 8) Left rear Notek light. 9) Bosch light on the left fender. 10) Transmission access hatch. 11) Retaining clips for the pick-ax on the left fender. 12) The front left fender bracket.



13) The gun and its mount out of the vehicle. Note how the entire panel underneath has been removed with the mount. 14) A little seen area. This is the gun carriage base with the barrel removed as seen from the front. 15) This is the same area as seen from behind. The gear is part of the mechanism which raises and lowers the gun. 16) Detail of the right hand elevation control. 17) Detail of the elevation mechanism itself. 18) The left hand traversing mechanism. 19, 20) Detail of the outside and inside of the trunion mounts. 21) The gun's travel lock. 22) A larger overall look at the gun mount. 23) Inside front left of the shield. 24) Detail in the inside left of the inner shield.



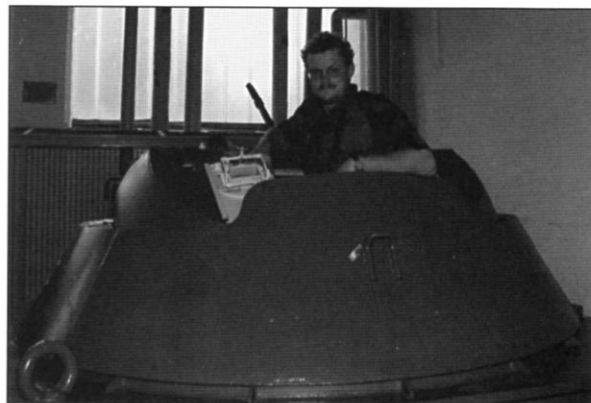
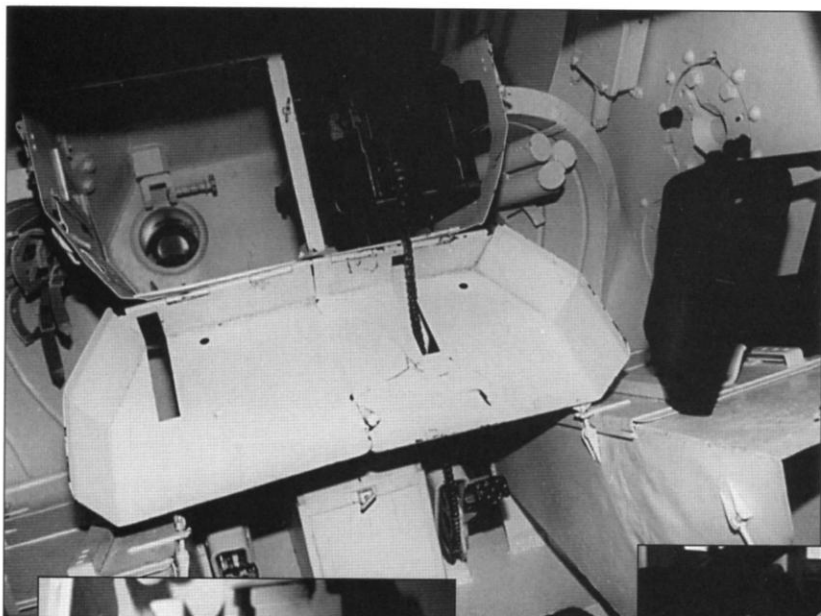
Gun barrel details. 25) Muzzle brake. This is the type more commonly seen on the 10.5cm field piece. 26) Detail of the forward area of the recuperator housing. 27) The back of the breech block. Note the date and other markings stamped into its surface. 28) The top of the breech block. 29) The attachment point on the block for the recuperator cylinder. 30) Gun cradle base. 31, 32) Front and rear views of the counter balance mount on the right side of the gun. 33) Detail of the left side mounting spindle. 34) Guidance plate for the recoil positioning device. 35) The complete barrel assembly. 36) The back guidance plate for the recoil positioning device. Note the other guide plate at the top of the photo.



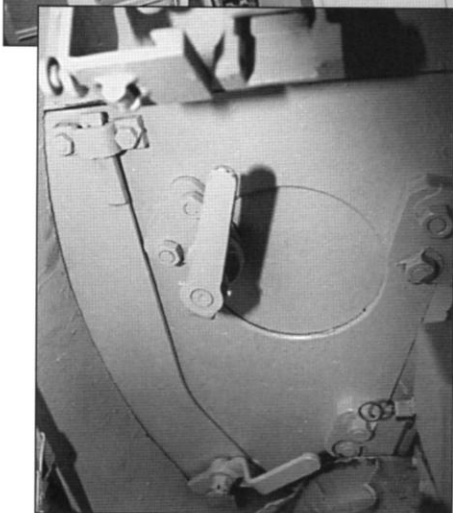
37) Looking back from the position of the gun. 38) The left side of the superstructure. 39) The right side. Note all the various fittings. 40) Looking down from the back end. The object in the center is the rear gun travel lock. It's normally positioned against the rear of the hull. 41) Ammo storage rack. The device below it held the barrel end of an MG34 and the bracket in photo 42 held pins located on the gun's grip. 42) The other end of the MG34 mount. 43) The mounting rack for the FuGf radio. Note the rubber shock absorbing components. 44) The left inside front shield showing the aerial lead and the storage bracket for the MP40. 45-48) the engine area. This is not covered by any of the after market sets, but the engine is available from Tank Workshop.

Kugel Blitz

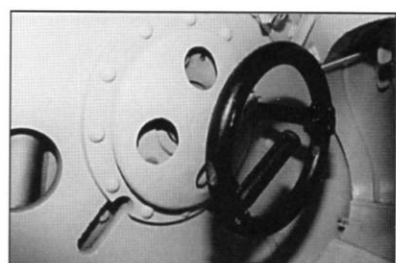
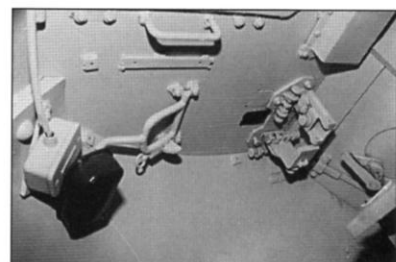
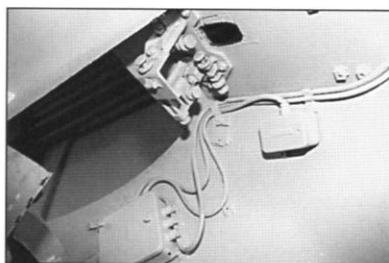
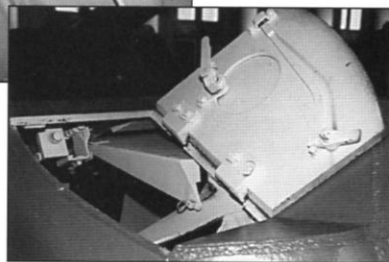
It's the Dream Machine Gruppe
look at the real thing and the DML kit



Above: the author gives a good impression of the size of the Kugelblitz turret. Left: this interesting photo shows the opened case of the gun system. A chain leads from the remaining right gun to the foot trigger. Note the empty shell box below the gun. The seat of the right gunner is visible. It was mounted on the ammo container.



Left: details of the turret's interior left side. The fastening of the missing range finder and the gunner's head rest are visible. Sequence at right: the hatch of the right gunner. Note the internal communication system, head rest mount and the hand wheel for the turret side traverse.



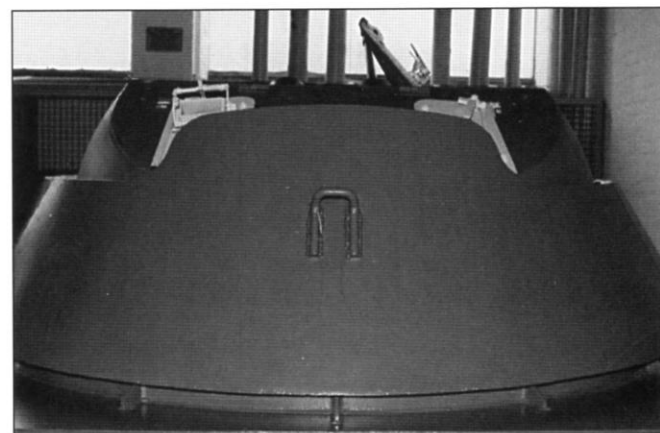
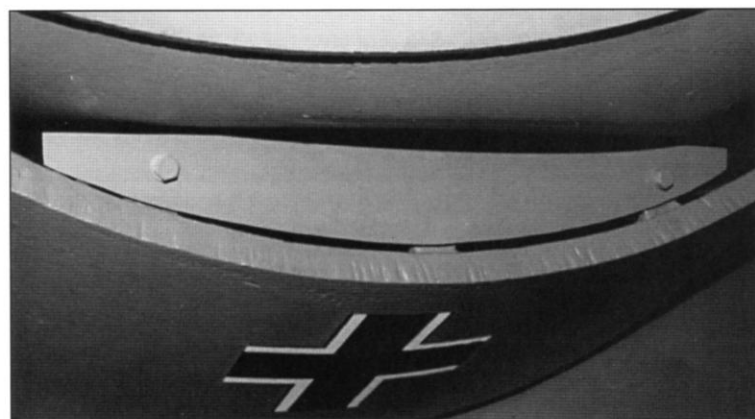
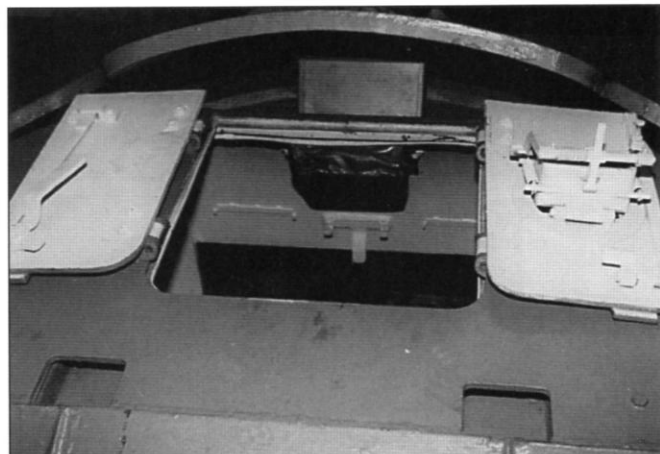
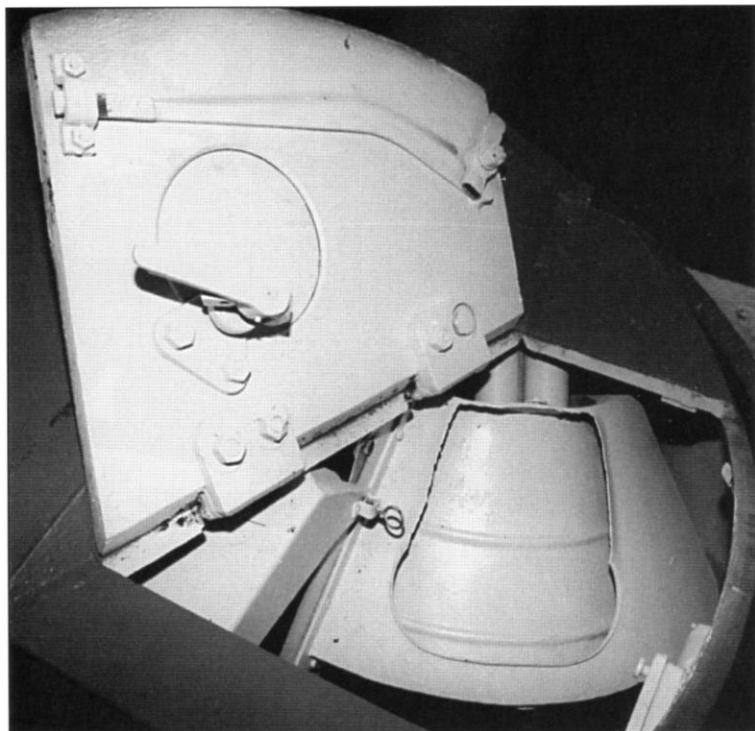
It appears that the Germans had a special liking for giving names to their weaponry. These names were chosen partly for secrecy reasons and partly to give the soldier a certain feeling of familiarity with their tools of war. Animal names were most popular, with the anti-aircraft tanks receiving names taken from the wide field of meteorology. Following "Wirbelwind" and "Ostwind" in 1944 the most sophisticated anti-aircraft tank design of WW II

was introduced, the "Kugelblitz."

With the allied invasion in the summer of 1944, the German troops faced an overwhelming supremacy. Both the U.S. Army Air Force and Royal Air Force gained air supremacy from the very first moment, nailing the German troops to the ground. Although the German armies could field superior technology (Panther, Tiger), the decision was decided the air.

From the beginning of the war there were many attempts to establish a mobile anti aircraft

defense. Light and medium AA guns were mounted on lorries and half tracks. Such simple and cheap solutions were generally successful in guarding airfields and industries. In the harsh reality of the eastern front, things were different. Cross country mobility was not sufficient, even the half tracks proved to be over stressed all too often. But especially the missing armor protection resulted in heavy losses, the partial armor later fitted to some SP guns being only an expedient. Beginning from



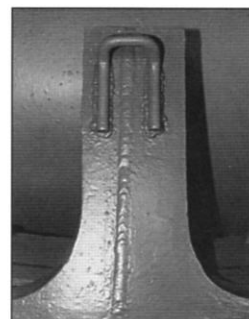
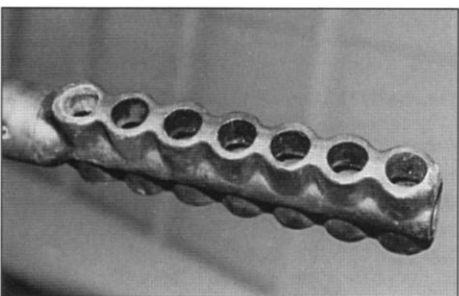
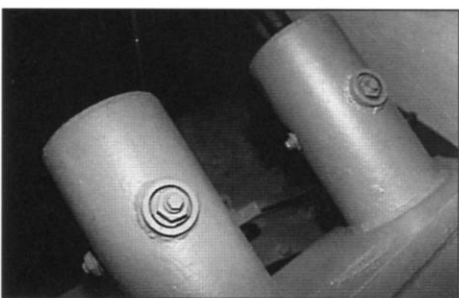
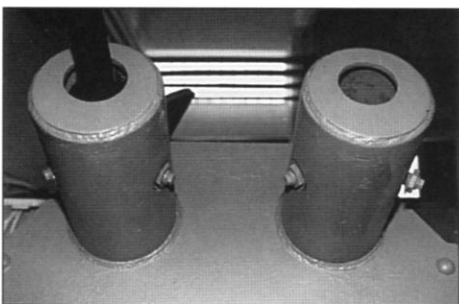
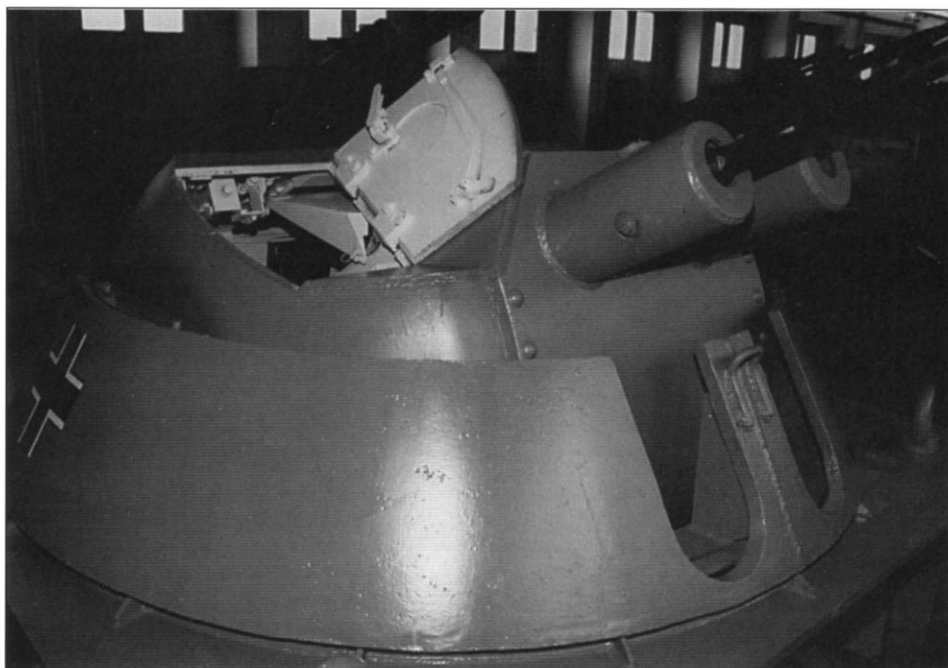
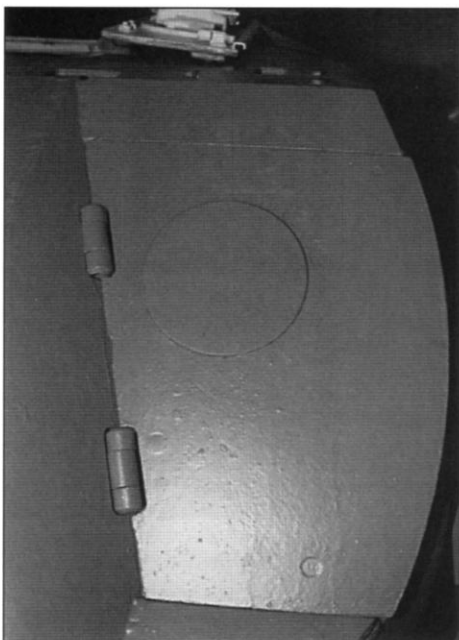
Upper left: here the curved chute for the ammo supply is visible. Upper right and below that: the commander's hatch, showing the periscope mount. In the background the turret ventilator is visible. The two large apertures in front of the hatch belong to the gun fume extraction system, the smaller ones to the range finder. The irregularly shaped hole is the aperture at the right edge of the range finder. Above: the turret rear and lifting hook. Above left: the lateral mountings are protected by narrow armored steel sheets. Left: the bottom of the internal turret globe. Note the very rough cut-outs.

1941 new requirements for mobile AA systems were set. The hull of a fully tracked vehicle (e.g. of a main battle tank) should provide armor protection and mobility. The weapon itself should be mounted under armor protection as well; if possible in a rotating and fully closed turret. Early solutions; the 2cm Flak 38 was mounted on the PzKpfw and Gw 38 (t) hull; did not satisfy. In late 1944 a special commando called "Ostbau" took over all responsibilities regarding development of AA tanks. In rapid

succession many different solutions were produced all based on the hull of the proven PzKpfw IV. The "Möbelwagen" solution showed only a very limited armor for the gun crew. When fighting ground targets the gun crew had virtually no armor to the sides and to the back. "Wirbelwind" (4 x 2 cm Flak 38) and "Ostwind" had a turret, but this was open to the top. All those latter developments were more or less successful makeshifts, but surely no perfect AA tank.

The commando "Ostbau" searched for further

more sophisticated solutions. In late 1944 a somewhat revolutionary design was realized. The new turret was housed in the hull instead of sitting on top of it, thus realizing a much lower vehicle. This turret consisted of a flat-topped sphere which was mounted in a low conical armored mantlet. The turret ring of the Tiger Ausf. E was used to mate the turret with the hull of the PzKpfw IV. The 3 cm MK 103/38 was chosen in a twin mounting. These guns were belt fed and had a sufficient impact on the target. The crew,



Top right and above: the turret in Rendsburg, Germany. Top left: the closed hatch on the left side. Above left, center and far left: the gun barrel housings which show three adjustment bolts and the muzzle brake. Left: the weld seam on the turret front, which is not centered.

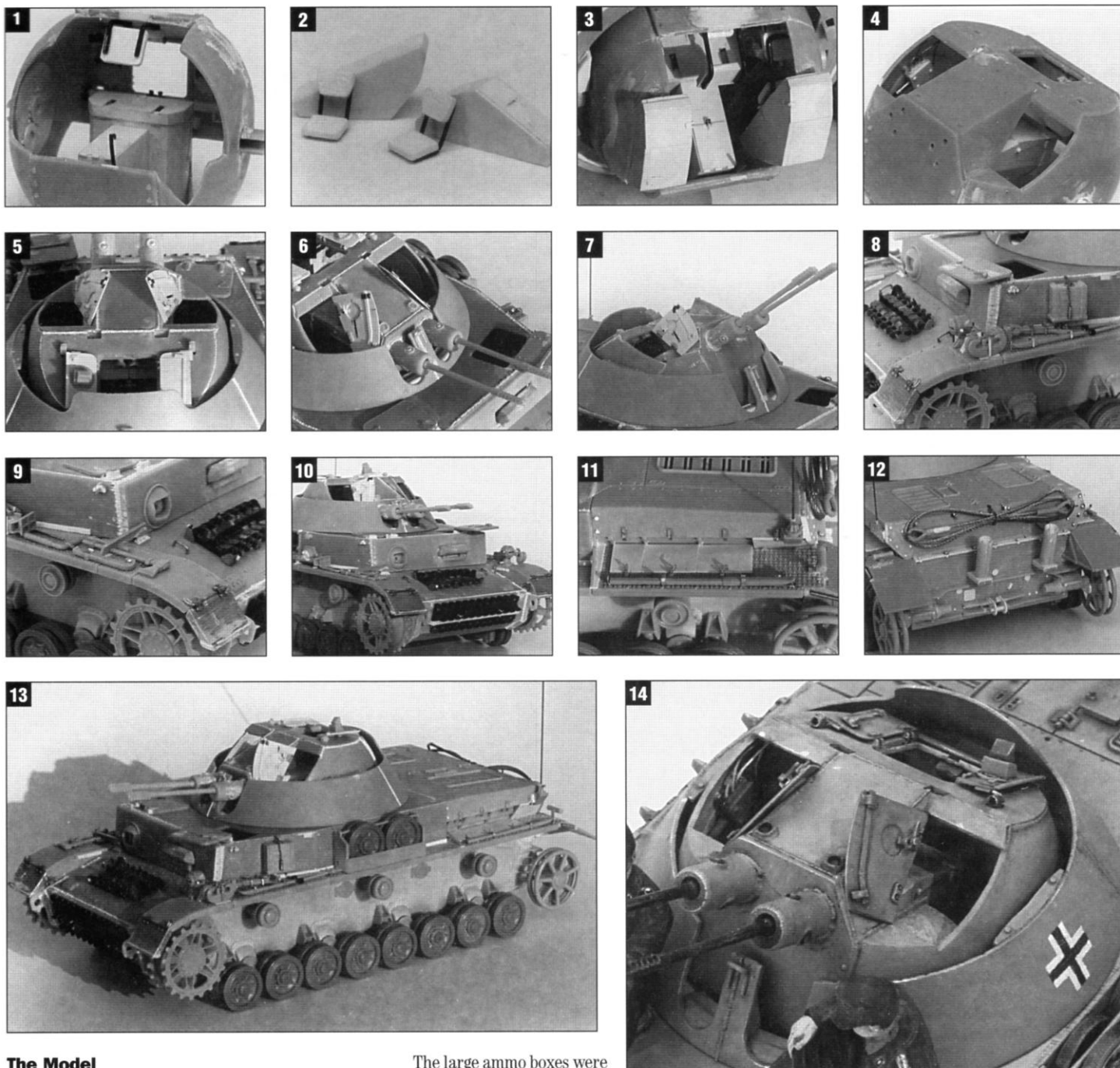
commander and two gunners sat in this turret and followed all movements of the gun system horizontally and vertically. The ammunition was stored in two large boxes upon which the gunner's seats were mounted. This way a fully armored turret was realized in a very low shape. This compact design would have allowed mounting to a variety of carriers including the proposed Jagdpanzer 38 (d).

The PzKpfw IV hull was slightly modified. The distinctive slope of the roof section at the driver's

and co-driver's hatch was deleted, a horizontal frontal plate was incorporated. Accordingly, a new higher frontal plate had to be manufactured. The hatches were relocated to the outer edges thus giving place for the new, larger turret. This was mounted in the center of the hull using the (larger) turret ring of the Tiger Ausf. E. Thanks to this solution, all hatches could be opened without problems. The spherical turret filled out the hull's interior nearly completely. There probably was no access

to the driver's compartment.

Some features, however, remain unknown. How, for example could the commander target an attacking plane? His periscope's field of vision was very limited. And how could the commander transmit data to the gunners? What about the recoil forces which would have caused severe vibrations within the housing? Apparently all these problems were solved. As a result, the Kugelblitz represented the most sophisticated AA weapon of the last war.



The Model

The author was able to locate the last remaining "Kugelblitz" turret in Germany. Thus accuracy can be guaranteed to a certain degree, since all dimensions were taken. The Dragon model is a good kit with only a few flaws, which will be solved in the report. The Kugelblitz turret however, lacks the interior. Since I decided to provide my kit with open hatches, I had to make the gun system and all peripheral parts from scratch.

At the beginning I glued both turret parts together. The lower part of the turret was cut open (see the respective photos). The aperture is attached to the front by part number A21 and to the back by part number A24. The enclosed weapon system was made from thick plastic plates, then the complete part was glued to the turret's front. I reproduced all components of the internal communication system from plastic and copper wire. Since no further information was available, I added a "fantasy" stereoscopic range finder. The crew's head rests were made from plastic and then attached to the turret's rear.

The large ammo boxes were cut from thick plastic sheet.

The two gunner seats were fitted before the boxes were glued to the turret globe. This assembly is difficult. When mounting the boxes the modeler should watch out for a proper and accurate fit. I secured the joints with super glue. The most serious problem was the chutes for the ammo supply. These parts have to be curved and so I experimented with many different materials. Thick lead proved to be suitable, since, on the one hand, it was easy to cut to shape, and on the other, it could be warped quite easily to connect the cased weapon system and the ammo boxes. Then the commander's seat could follow. I made this, like the seats, using plastic and copper wire. The exterior of the turret was improved to a great extent. I replaced all hatches with new ones made from 0.25 mm plastic. Better locking bars and hinges also were added. The turret sphere lacks many welding seams I reproduced these using thinned putty and an injection needle.

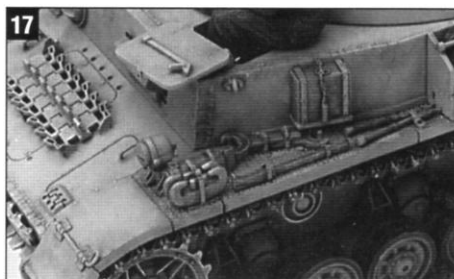
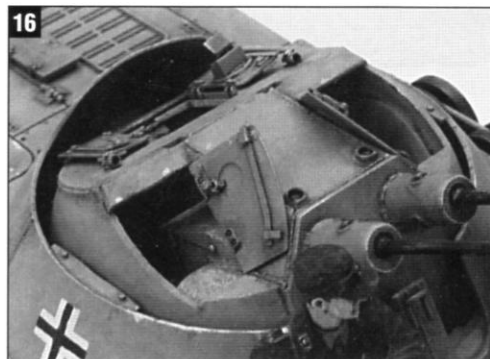
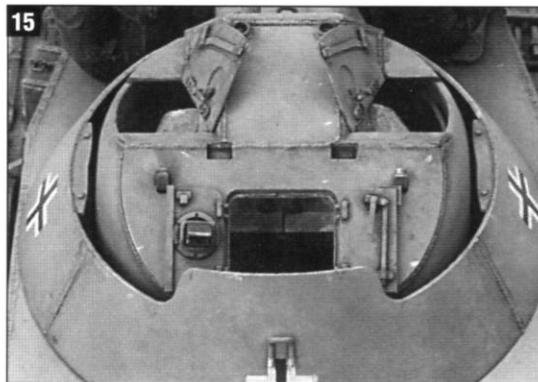
The turret globe was now attached to the conical mantlet (A2). Here again the modeler should

be careful to obtain a proper and movable fit.

The hull

I improved many components of Dragon's PzKpfw. IV hull. The edges of all armor plates were cut rough and all weld seams were improved using the method explained above. The rear plate shows some sinker holes which were filled with putty. The upper part of this plate was cut back a bit to allow an easier fit of the superstructure. Since I use solvent washes to a large extent, I tend to secure all critical joints with super glue (running and idler wheels). In this phase I prepared the superstructure. The joining between the engine deck and the frontal superstructure is a critical one as well. Here I had to use putty several times in order not to leave any grooves visible. The welding seams at the superstructure needed some retouching as well. When joining hull and superstructure, the separate rear plate is helpful. It can be finally added without leaving ugly gaps. I replaced the rear part of the

1) The kit's turret is prepared. Note the cutouts and the cased gun system. 2) The scratchbuilt ammo boxes and gunner's seats. 3) The boxes installed in the bottom of the turret. 4) The raw turret globe shows remnants of putty. 5) The turret shows many improved welding seams. 6) The main gun is barely visible. 7) All hatches were made from 0.25 mm plastic. 8) All fastenings were made using tin-foil. Note the welding seams and rough plate edges. 9) The front end showing the DML tracks used as spares. 10) The frontal fender flaps were made from metal sheet. 11) The rear section of the fenders were completely reworked. 12) The rear view illustrates many improvements. The tow hook was added, the exhaust tubes were detailed. 13) The completed yet unpainted kit. 14) Here parts of the interior are clearly visible. I painted the interior a grayish yellow. 15, 16) The finished turret. The commander's hatch is open. 17) Note that the black wash renders all engravings prominent. 18) The rear view shows the metalized towing rope. The delicate single link track is a Friulmodellismo product—one of the best on the market. 19) The completed model.



track covers with better Tamiya parts, since I wanted to improve the engine cooler flaps. The flaps themselves were made from plastic and the wing nuts were taken from the ModelKasten set.

I replaced the complete running gear with the Tamiya's bogie rubber bumpers and ModelKasten's Panzer IV roadwheel set.

The exhaust system was improved as well. The base plates were made entirely new and the Dragon pipes were furnished with delicate welding seams and thin internal tubes. Two thin tin stripes were used to fasten the exhausts to the rear plate. The early towing loops were replaced by late (incorporated) loops. At the rear plate, two steel ropes were carried and these should be added. Further details can be seen by referring to the model photos.

I replaced the front fenders with new ones made from metal sheet. Even the hinges were added this way. In theory the fenders are now movable. Since I wanted a perfect model, I used tools from Tamiya's replacement set. Although these are of very good quality, I still added a lot of additional fastenings, such as butterfly nuts (ModelKasten) and further improvements. The single link track enclosed with the kit is pretty good, but anybody who wants even more accuracy can choose either ModelKasten's or Friulmodellismo workable track set. I chose the latter set, number ATL-04

Camouflage, markings and finish

It is difficult to say whether the few Kugelblitz built by the end of war saw any combat. It is, however, very likely that these vehicles were finished in plain dark yellow only (Dunkelgelb). I therefore decided to add no camouflage scheme at all. I prefer to use Humbrol 93 to represent this color.

After the paint had dried out, I painted the tools. The metal parts received a rust-brown wash, the wooden parts a lighter brown wash. In this phase I tend to exaggerate the painting, so I put a lot of rusty stains all over the kit. I use artist's oil paints.

I let this weathering dry for some days. The markings can be applied now I applied only three German crosses. I prefer dry transfers, since these are much better to apply than ordinary decals. Now the Friulmodellismo track set was painted dark

gray. Some days later a thin wash of rusty brown followed. To finish, I drybrushed them very carefully with silver. After several days of drying, the model was drybrushed using the slightly lightened base color. Thus all paint faults were retouched. In this phase the tracks were attached.

After all the paint and glue had set firmly, I gave the model a heavy wash of thinned black oil paint. Now grooves and engravings and even raised items like rivets or other small details are rendered prominent. The black wash helps to tone down the

exaggerations applied with the rusty paint. The darkening, which accompanies this procedure, is desired. Finally, the whole kit again should be carefully drybrushed with the original base color dark yellow. Now the last superfluous paint disappears, leaving only the desired degree of weathering visible.

To complete the finishing process, I tend to over spray the whole model with a semi-gloss varnish, as even colors made for the military show a certain degree of subtle sheen.

—Thomas Anderson



MMiR RECCE

DML "Kugelblitz" Anti Aircraft Tank. Kit number 6040. Kit graciously provided by the manufacturer. Suggest retail price \$39.98.

Friulmodellismo 40cm Panzer III/Panzer IV track set. Kit number ATL-04. Suggested retail \$39.95.

ModelKasten PzKpfw IV roadwheels. Kit number W-2. Suggested retail \$16.95.

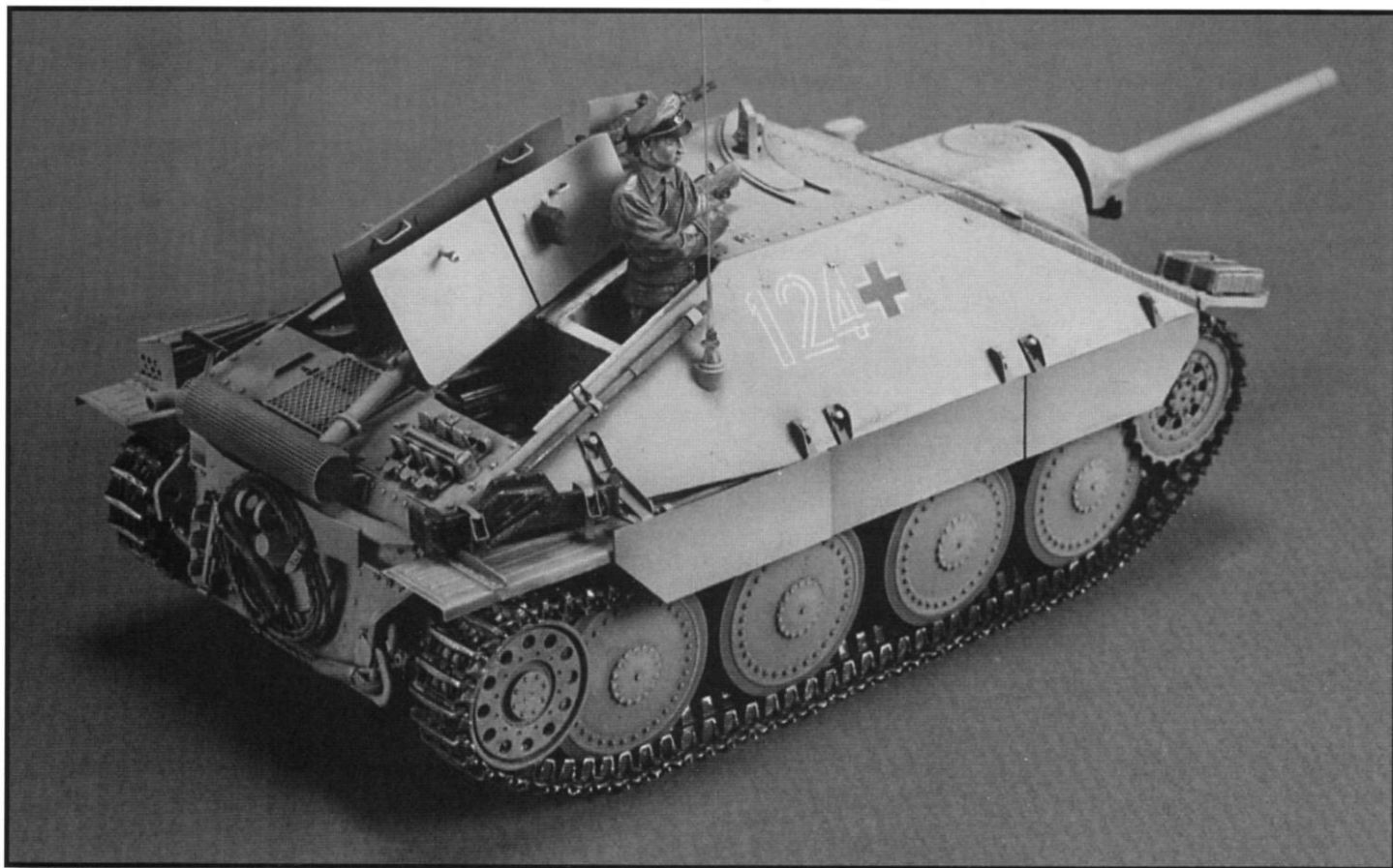
References

Panzer IV & Its Variants, by Walter J. Spielberger, Schiffer Publishing, 1993. Also in German. Brief coverage in the section of flak versions of the Panzer IV. A few photos and a line drawing.

The accompanying photos.

Heck of a Hetzer

The DML Early Hetzer with everything but the kitchen sink



The DML Hetzer has been around for a while. It was first introduced a few years ago as one of their secret releases. I loved all that hype. If you're a lover of German armor, don't ignore our little friend. This is a fine kit and it represents some of DML's best work. The fit is great everywhere and it is very, very accurate to the real thing.

I picked this kit for a super detailing project for two main reasons. One, it happens to have a number of detail sets available for it and second, it doesn't have a turret and therefore I thought it would be easier (I was wrong).

The cast of our story

I opted for the early model Hetzer. The first of DML's Hetzer kits represents a tank from the June-July 1943 production and is characterized by its four rear hatches, its multi-hole idler wheels and its large reinforcing bars across the back hull. As I stated, the kit is very accurate but it does force the limits of the injection molding process in many respects. All the parts are there, they just aren't as accurate as they could be. Enter the after market.

As it turns out, Royal Models of Italy has two detailing sets for the Hetzer. One is a side skirt set, basically made up of six etched panels. The second is a more developed set with a number of replacement parts and a super looking set of rear fenders.

The Show Modelling also offers its version of an etched detailing set. Many of the parts on this set are unique among the two and this worked out pretty well in the long run.

To dress up the innards, VP comes in with a highly detailed engine module. And this, dear reader, is where we begin our story.

Gentleman, start (with) your engine

I completed most of the basic construction with no problems. The wheels and all the suspension components were built into subassemblies and set aside. I did use that Blu-Tak stuff to temporarily attach the roadwheels to ensure that the tank sat level. The DML suspension allows for adjustment of the wheels for positioning over uneven terrain, so mounting the wheels while the suspension dries helps keep everything on the level.

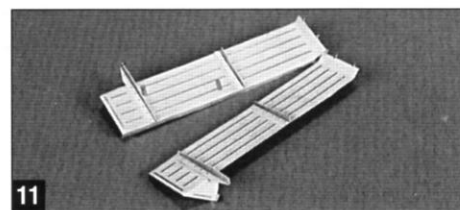
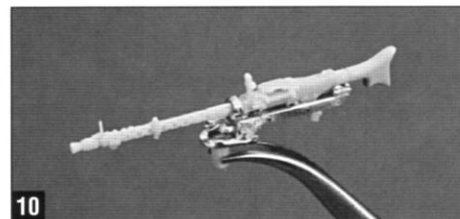
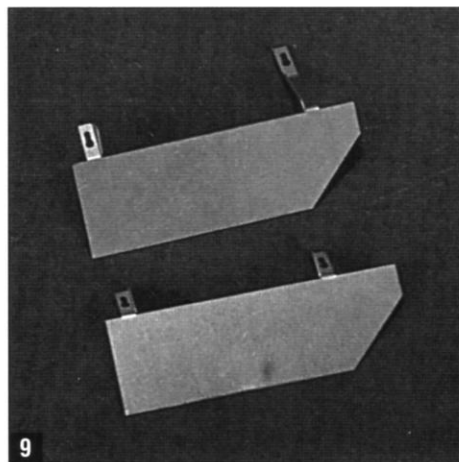
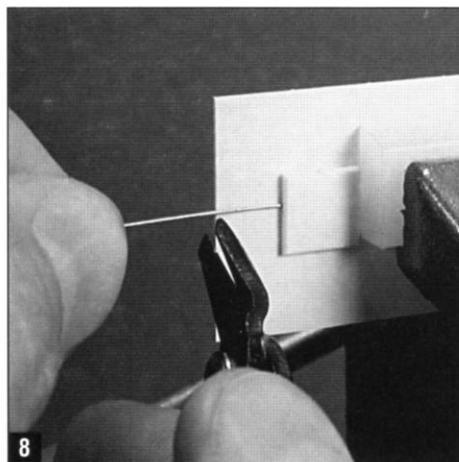
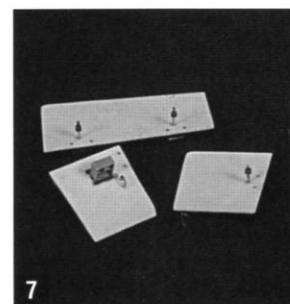
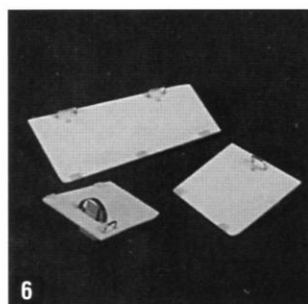
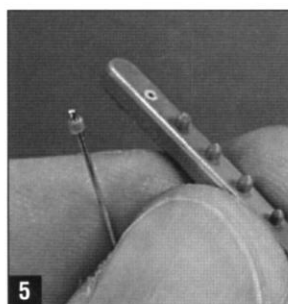
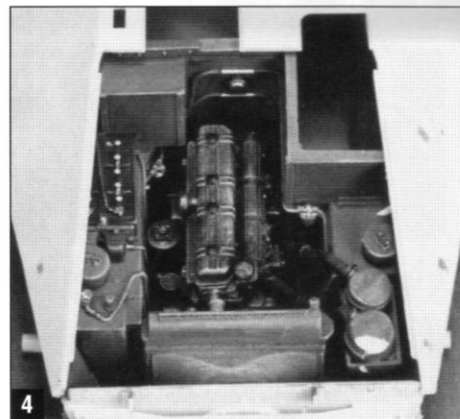
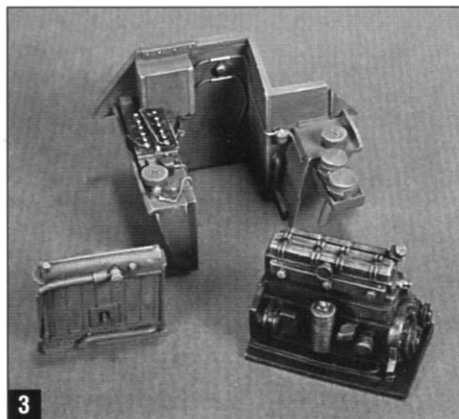
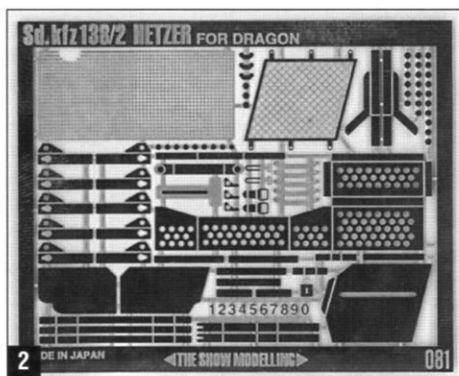
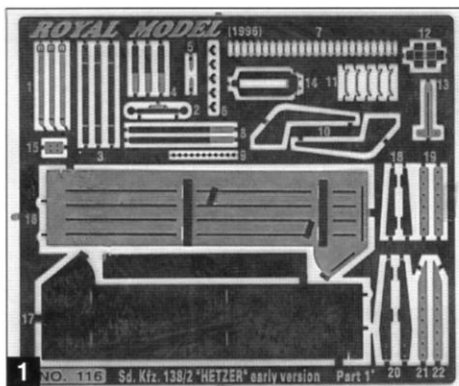
The VP engine set is a simple affair composed of seven resin pieces, three of which are the engine,

the engine compartment and the radiator housing. There are four small parts; some type of round air filter thingies (2x) and air pipes for the two carburetors.

Installation entails dropping the pieces in and test-fitting against the upper and rear hulls. I had a couple of photos showing the back-end of the Hetzer and I used them as a reference for the exact location of the parts. I must admit that I couldn't quite get it to look like the photo of the real thing. I was more concerned with showing off the incredible level of detail present in the kit. For example you can even see the bare wires on one of the battery cables!

I painted the compartment and radiator gray and the engine black. Washes and drybrushing followed. I picked out a few of the finer details using several of the Polly Scale acrylic metal colors, such as copper (for that wire) and brass. I spiced up the battery by painting the caps blue and red.

I left all the resin parts loose in the hull while I attached the upper hull half. This allowed me to play with the fit somewhat (I did knock down the edge of one of the forward air filters). Once I was



satisfied, I put a few drops of superglue underneath where they were out of sight. I then dropped in those air pipes. This way there was no problem with them breaking during installation.

VP provides a crisply molded engine deck and doors in resin. They have already been expertly separated with all the proper detail intact. They were molded the same thickness as the kit parts, so I set about wet sanding them down to scale thickness. My logic here was somewhat flawed in that resin parts at that thickness have no strength. Also I didn't quite keep an eye on the parts as I was wailing away at them with my sanding block in the sink. Several very interesting wedge shaped pieces were the result. I felt I took this all very well really, only falling down and crying for a few minutes.

My solution was to use the kit's center deck with the edges beveled back to scale thickness (duh!). I scratch built new hatches using the kit parts as templates. The hinges were carefully removed with a chisel tipped blade and installed on the new parts. Grab handles were made from brass wire.

In my reference photos I noticed some weird bolted rods attached to the bottom of the engine

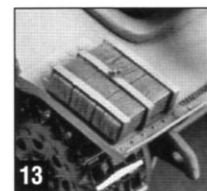
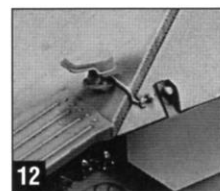
hatches (purpose unknown). I added these by drilling through ModelKasten hex nuts, then passing brass rod through the holes.

I also added some flanges to the sides of the compartment openings. I noticed these in my photos and I formed them from the sides of etched brass sheets. One other "flange" was added on the side of the commanders station. This was the one area I couldn't align properly. After everything was buttoned up I noticed that further monkeying with the engine parts probably would have resulted in everything lining up. I was using a cap at the lower left as a reference point, figuring it should stick through the hatch. If you were to lop this off, it will allow the part to pass under the opening and bring it all in line. Oh well. As I mentioned I noticed this after the hull was sealed (of course). At least you've been warned.

In spite of the gaff, I still loved the way the parts looked.

Side track

Just as I was contemplating what to do with the tracks, I received a set of the new pinned tracks for the Hetzer from Friulmodellismo. I set them on a



1) The Royal brass detail sheet. 2) The Show Modelling sheet. Not many of the parts are duplicated between the two sets. 3) The finished engine pieces. 4) Everything installed and ready to button up. 5) The "bolt with a hole" method. I drilled through the top of the bolt after shaving off the end. An X-acto was twirled on the top to start the hole. 6, 7) The top and bottom of the scratch built engine access doors. Note the bolted rods. 8) My track jig in action. Not too complicated. A small container sat underneath to catch the track pins. 9) The completed brass skirts. Establishing the proper angle of the braces was tricky. 10) The remote MG prior to the addition of the shield panels. A lot of work for very little result. 11) The fender panels ready for installation. 12) The Notek light and lead. The mounts for the skirts is also visible. 13) The modified jack block on the right front fender. This is the modified kit part.

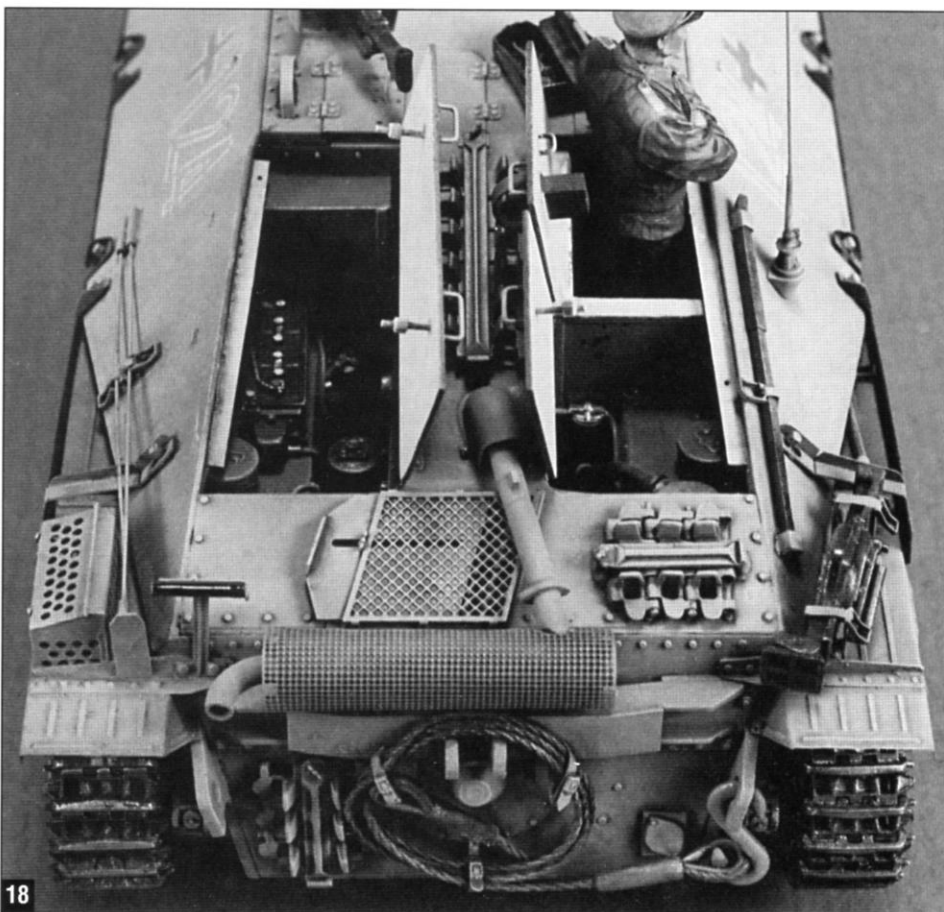
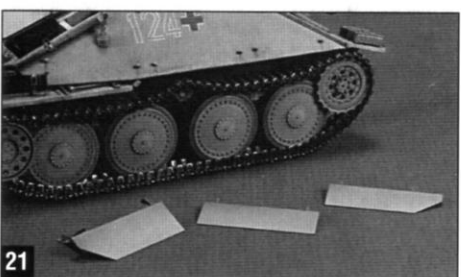
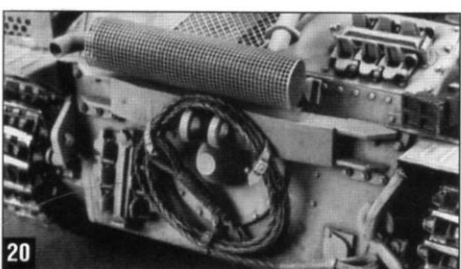
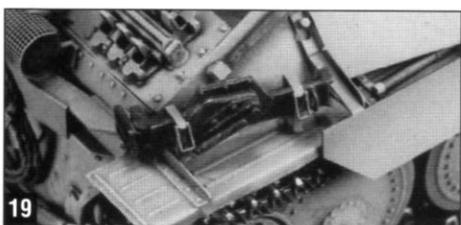
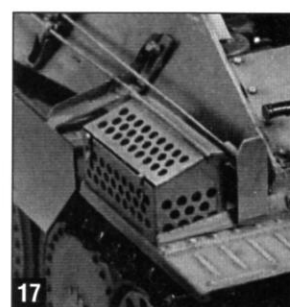
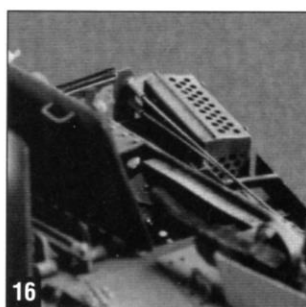
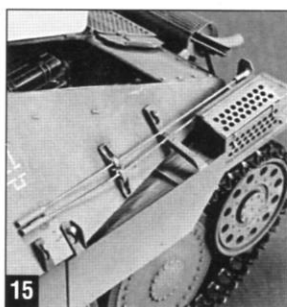


table and then began circling, all the while regarding them cautiously. After a few days I felt bold enough to approach them and open the bag.

What you get is a bag full o' metal links and a spool of stainless steel wire. Hmmm... Obviously said wire must mate with metal and tracks will result. Each of the links is molded hollow to allow a pin to pass through it. Pretty impressive stuff.

I fooled around with several methods here, including stuffing sections of wire into each link and trimming them off. First off, consider pressing fine steel wire into an uncooperative hole with your bare fingers... The word "ouch" springs to mind.

A couple of Band-aids later I finally decided to make a jig by gluing a small block of styrene near the edge of a larger piece. I test fit several pieces of wire to determine the proper length. I installed this rig in my vise, then simply clipped off the lengths one by one. I put down a small container to catch the pins as they fell. It went pretty fast. You'll need pins for about 92 links per side.

The links are hollow to accept the pins but they do suffer from a small amount of metal splooge here and there. I ran a number 74 drill bit through each of the holes to ensure a smooth fit and intact

fingers. That's it really. After each pin was put in place I applied a small drop of white glue to the hole. The finished runs end up being quite sturdy and will tolerate a fair amount of handling.

Make sure that the glued ends face the inside of the run, there are right and left sides.

Back on deck

I continued detailing the upper hull with the addition of the Jordi Rubio gun barrel. I drilled out the kit's gun base and installed the metal part much like the plastic piece. Simple.

The casting for the real gun has a large circular shaped section underneath it. The DML kit is missing this and it is very tough to see, so add if you must.

While I was up front I detailed the jack block with parts from the Royal set and an MK wing nut. The block itself got its molded-on detail scraped off and it was scribed with a knife to represent wood grain.

The Notek light got a lead from fine solder and a connection nut which is also an MK item. These types of connections usually call for a conical head nut and the MK set includes several sizes. The tie-down for the wire was made from flattened solder.

The Royal set provides front fender braces

14) The roof with the neat little Show Modelling tool box and finished remote MG mount. 15) The spare antenna holder. 16) The rear mount for the holder. It's O.K. if the rods are bent. This is how it's worked for real. 17) The perforated stowage box on the left rear fender. This was an early feature. 18) The Big Picture. This is where all the work is. Everything is visible including the added screens, tools, tow cable, fenders, convoy light and engine. Everything looks cool, doesn't it? 19) The new jack and mount on the right rear fender. 20) A closer look at the back end and tow cable. The structural cross members were another early Hetzer feature. 21) The skirts come off. I guess it was worth it in order to see the cool tracks.

which fit perfectly. Installing them does require careful trimming of the molded-on plastic braces. Be careful of the rivets.

The back deck contains most of the details that were added to this project. The Royal set provides the entire rear fender pieces for both sides. These are super and they require careful fitting. Be aware that the small tabs at the rear of the fenders mount onto the rear towing lugs. This is a very clever feature of the part (realistic, too) but it's not at all clear in the instruction's one small drawing.

Some trimming of the lugs was required on my kit, but other than that the fit was terrific.

The horizontal fender support bracket should also sit flush against the rear hull wall. Getting this and the two tabs right may require clipping off the etched tabs at the front of each fender. These correspond to holes in the sponsons for the kit's fenders. There is a fudge factor here as a millimeter either way won't be noticed.

On top of the new brass fenders I added the Show Mod perforated tool box (on the left) and the Royal jack mounts on the right. These mounts should be placed well back from their suggested mounting points. This is clear in the reference photos and it's also a necessity in order to get the jack to clear the rear side skirt bracket. The jack should sit high in its mounts in order to clear the rear fender bracket. I added small strips of brass runner to the inside of each mount for this. The jack itself is from the Tamiya tool set and the locking clasps are from the Royal set.

Also up on the fenders are two rather uniquely Hetzerish details. The first is a spare antenna mount that consists of two hollow tubes, a base and either one or two standard German clasps. This detail is indicated, but not completely rendered on the kit. I used small sections of brass tube and some scrap brass sheet to form it. Photos show only one clasp, but I couldn't find one wide enough to accommodate both spares. I used two clasps taken from an Eduard sheet.

The second detail is the rear blackout light. On the Hetzer this was on a raised mount. This piece is one of the few that are duplicated between the Show Modelling and Royal sheets. I chose the Royal piece, as it was slightly more detailed and less complicated to assemble. The light fixture is a section of styrene rod which was eventually painted flat black and then Tamiya clear red. The light should mount right on to the back of the fender brace. I made attachment bolts with my Historex hex-head punch and die set. The right hand fender bracket is also "blank," so it got bolts, too.

Screens and tracks

The Hetzer left the factory with three sections of track tattooed to its back. I used extras from the Friul set and drilled the last link on each section completely through. Cool.

The kit's mounting straps were good, but I added a wing nut to each. I noticed in my reference photos that the factory added spares were painted the same dark yellow base coat as the rest of the tanks, so this is how mine appear.

The Show Modelling set provides two gorgeous screens for the kit. One is for the main intake on the back deck, while the other is for the muffler. In addition to the screen section, Show Modelling also provided the slide vent panel to install underneath. This was installed and a wing nut casting was added to the open slot.

The screen for the muffler is not really correct for this version of the Hetzer. Earlier Hetzers had a perforated sheet wrapped around the muffler. This is very similar to the shroud seen on Panzer II's. The DML etched part represents this pretty well. The Show Modelling part is a much finer mesh and these came into use on later variants. Well, call me a rebel, 'cause I went ahead and used the finer stuff. Primarily because I thought it was so pretty.

I added a tow cable using model ship rope (nylon: no fuzzys) and heads from the Tamiya tool set. I made tie-down straps from foil and hooked the end to the towing mount with an S-hook from the same set.

MG Man

The rooftop remote controlled MG was made up of several parts. The base is the white metal Show Modelling set number 020. This was originally intended for the Italeri kit and it doesn't fit this one very well. So I used the front of the white metal piece and the clamp that holds the gun. The frame that holds the gun's grip is from the Royal set and the back plate is Show Modelling. This MG was operated via control rods fed through a hollow tube beneath it. I used the bottom of the kit part for this. The MG is also from the kit and it is excellent. I did thin down the forward sight a tad and I replaced the butt with one from Tamiya.

The shields are from the Show Modelling kit with added bolts.

I'm not entirely sure if this was worth all the trouble, as the kit MG is not terrible and the many added parts are all but invisible when the kit is painted up.

Just for the heck of it, I put together the Show Modelling toolbox set and stuck it on the roof.

Skirt chaser

The Royal side skirts were used and these are fine etched pieces of solid brass. The brackets are part of the skirt panels and they fold over and up. I decided to make them all removable for some odd reason. This entailed a ton of test fitting, but it was eventually accomplished. For mounting points, I used MK nuts drilled out as described above. The holes in the skirts need enlarging somewhat with a file to fit down over the bolt heads.

The end result was removable skirts, but I doubt the need will arise very often. It was fun anyway...

Paint, paint, paint

The insides of the engine doors were painted off white and weathered to look greasy and nasty. The rest of the kit was undercoated in black, then oversprayed with dark yellow using Polly Scale acrylics.

The markings are a combination of VP dry transfers and etched stencils (also VP). These mini stencils work well, but you need a good sized flat surface to work on.

I weathered with an oil wash and drybrushing.

The tracks were first given a thin wash of black oil paint (very thin). After drying only an hour or so, I gave them several coats of a track color mixed with black, red and steel (all Polly Scale). Because the oil paint dries very slowly and the two paint bases are dissimilar, it's possible to go back over the tracks with a fine brass brush and "wear" a good portion of the paint off to reveal the bare metal underneath.

To finish off the kit I stuck a figure in the open hatch. He is also a Show Modelling item and I painted him with a "Zeltbahn" style camo jacket. I thought he looked appropriately put out by the mechanical situation of the model.

It's over Johnny...

Well, that's my tale. I used all the sets I could think of to junk up the model—and even a few I hadn't thought of! I felt it was a worthwhile project and the kit was thoroughly dressed up as a result. It's a lot of detail in a tiny model and I was very pleased with the finished product. 

—Pat Stansell

MMiR RECCE

DML Sd. Kfz. 138/1 "Hetzer" Early Version. Kit number 6030. Suggested retail \$29.98.

Friulmodellismo Hetzer Early Model. Kit number ATL-15. Suggested retail \$39.95. An earlier release brought up-to-date with the new pinned system.

Jordi Rubio 7,5 cm Pak 39 L48 German Tank-Gun. Kit number TG-27 (JR-27). Suggested retail \$7.95. The U.S. importer, VLS, uses the two letter prefix "JR" for these products.

Royal Models Hetzer Sd. Kfz 138/2 (early version) Part 1. Kit number 116. Suggested retail \$21.95. This is the detailing set.

Royal Models Hetzer Sd. Kfz 138/2 (early version) Part 2. Kit number 117. Suggested retail \$21.95. These are the etched skirts.

The Show Modelling Hetzer Remote Control MG Mount. Kit number 020. Suggested retail \$8.95. Originally for the Italeri kit.

The Show Modelling Hetzer Detail Set. Kit number 081. Suggested retail \$15.95. Designed for the DML kit.

Verlinden Productions Hetzer Engine & Compartment. Kit number 1097. Suggested retail \$22.95.

References

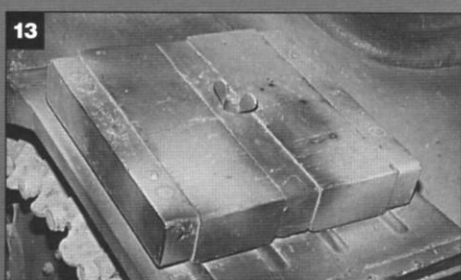
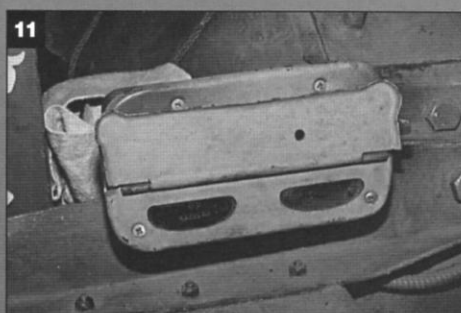
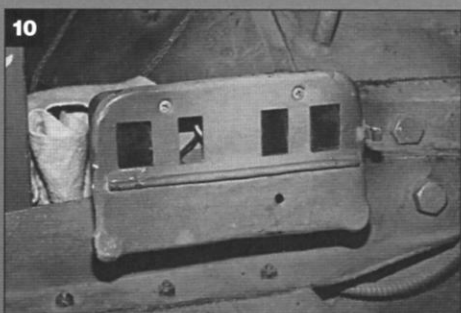
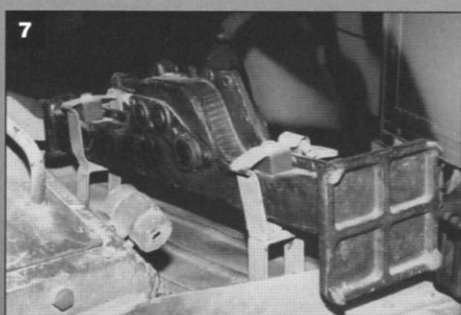
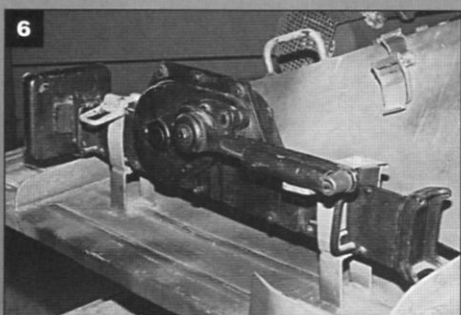
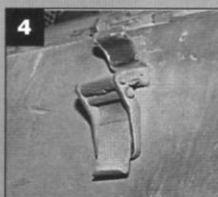
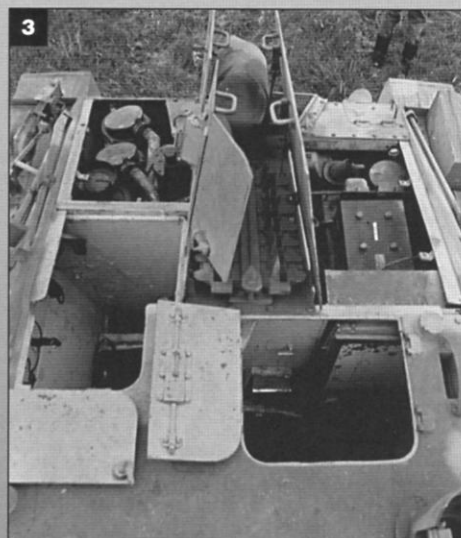
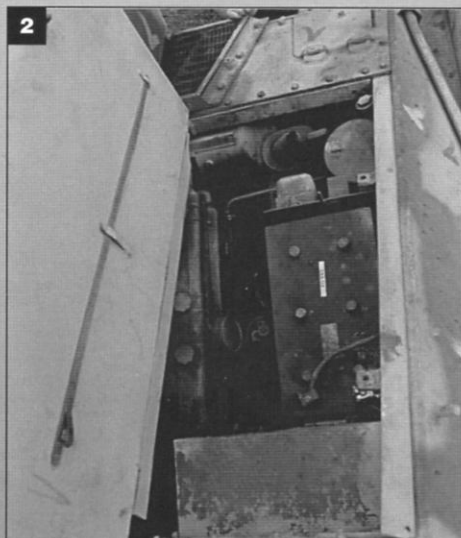
Leichte Jagdpanzer Entwicklung - Fertigung - Einsatz, Band 14 der Serie, by Walter J. Spielberger, Hilary Doyle and Thomas Jentz. Motorbuch Verlag 1992. As you might have already guessed this a German language publication. This was my primary reference. It's expensive (\$50.00), but it covers all the German light tank destroyers. Superb plans and photos.

Die Panzer-Kampfwagen 35(t) und 38(t) und ihre abarten, by Walter J. Spielberger, Motorbuch Verlag 1990. All the Czech vehicles are covered here from 1920 to 1945 and there is a good section on the Hetzer. Also big bucks at \$57.00. German text.

Czechoslovak Armored Fighting Vehicles 1918-1948, by Charles K. Klimont & Vkladimir Francev, Schiffer Publishing 1997. As the title suggests this is the saga of the wartime Czech AFV industry. Good coverage of the Hetzer with some interior shots. English text.

WWII German Jagdpanzer "Hetzer". The Tank Magazine 1983.4, No. 8. Oh so obscure, but if you spot this baby at a swap meet or liquidation—grab it. It's long since out of print, but the drawings and photos are highly useful. Japanese text.

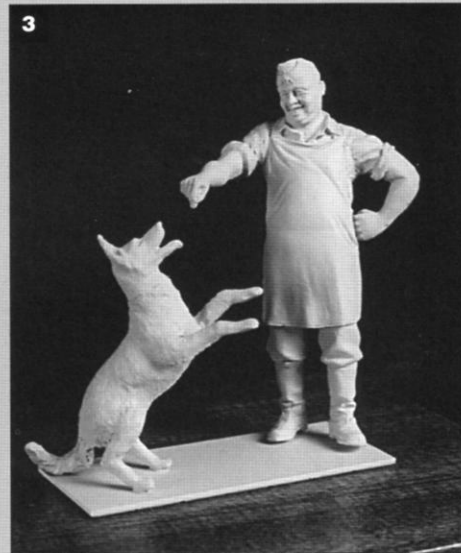
My own photos of the Munster Hetzer. Watch out if you take pictures of a museum Hetzer. Many of the world's existing Hetzers are actually ex-Swiss G13's, which is the post war variant. My shots are of the Munster vehicle which has been backdated during restoration. North American readers should take note of the Hetzer at APG which is a late war variant, and the Borden Canadian Forces Base Hetzer which is a very early model.



The two Hetzers shown here are both restored G-13s. The open engine shots are of the Ft. Knox vehicle, while all the others are of the Hetzer located at the Panzer School at Munster, Germany. 1) The back end. This is an accurate arrangement for a late war Hetzer. 2, 3) The back end. 4, 5) Two views of the standard German equipment clasp; opened and closed. 6, 7) Although this is a late model restoration, this jack mount is virtually the same for all the models. 8) The Notek light. It's missing its lead. 9) The commander's rearward looking periscope. This was another consistent feature. 10, 11) The late style rear convoy light showing its two positions. 12) The rear engine vent. This shot shows the large sliding vent door off well. Note how the edge is curled up and how the large wing nut locks the cover in its sliding track. 13) The jack block.

Mini-Men

A Look at What's New on the Figure Front



CMD/Yoshi

As mentioned in number 13 we bring you a more detailed look at the work of Horano Yoshi, the highly talented Japanese figure sculptor who's work is now being produced by our friends at CMD.

(1) **G-01, German Motorcyclist** is a simple piece with separate arms and head. He stands fairly rigid and sports the cool looking gauntlets seen on German bikers. His waterproof rain coat is fastened around his legs which is an intriguing feature. We provided the map.

(2) **G-02, Max Wunshe 12th SS HJ Commander** is a personality figure of the well known commander of Hitler Jugend at Normandy. He's complete with his favorite medals and his panzer jamys. His head is molded on and the figure comes with a highly detailed gun holster.

(3) **G-03, Fat Cook & Dog**, makes up an amusing little vignette with a corpulent cook sharing a treat with a (what else?) German shepherd. The apron and ties are also a treat here with the sculpting being very well done. He comes molded with

separate arms and the dog is molded with a separate head. This is also available with an infantryman and a slightly different dog as G-05.

(4) **G-04, Wounded Officer, Berlin 1945** may look familiar to some. He graced the cover of the Models in Action Publication on the Battle of Berlin. This is a striking pose with his wounded arm in a sling and his great coat thrown back to reveal tons of detail on his tunic. The Luger really has to be seen to be appreciated. He looks pretty pissed off, too. We'd hate to be a 1/35th scale Russian around this dude... This is one of the best in the line in our opinion and he'd look great posed on a base all by himself.

(5) **G-06, German Sturmartillerie Officer** is another familiar face. He was originally part of a vignette seen on the cover of the Model Art special on German SPGs. The animation on this piece is great, with the pose twisted and shouting to boot. He's wearing an interesting combination of winter trousers (with suspenders), panzer wrap and fur cap. Another one to stand alone.

(6) **G-09, German Tankman in Sweater** is the perfect companion to your next panzer. This is the type of garb you often see on the panzer crews, usually a privately purchased item. This is a

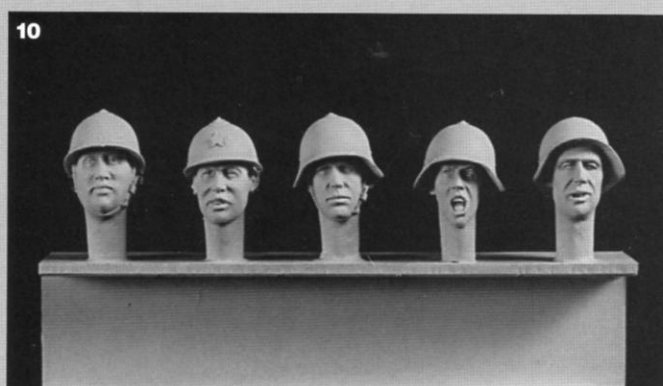
one piece casting with a separate head. A similar casting is offered in shirt sleeves and a different head as G-08.

(7) **G-11, German Vehicle Crew** is also fishing for pocket change. He wears the big great coat with the collar up. It looks like it was inspired by a photo of a similar wild man standing on top of a 222 armored car, checking out the world. He does look appropriately chilly. This is also a one piece casting with a separate head.

(8) **G-??, German Wounded Tank Rider** is so new we didn't have a stock number. He's a star from the Models in Action on Normandy, being one of the guys riding on the L/70 on the cover. The detail on this one is super with his arm in a sling and a terrific scowl on his face. One of his fellow riders is also available as item G-13, but this has not yet been submitted for review.

Hornet

Our good pals at Hornet seem to be taking a bit of a break on the full figure front to concentrate on their superb line of head sets. This is all well and good. However, they must consider those of us with fragile cardiovascular systems. WE JUST CAN'T TAKE



ALL THIS EXCITEMENT! The latest round includes no fewer than six of these exquisite little sets.

The first (in no particular order) is a set of **(9) Heads with WW2 German mountain troops' caps, HGH10**. This is the shorter brimmed version of the venerable M43 cap (which was derived from the mountain cap) worn by the Gebirgsjäger. This cap had more of a squishy quality to it around the crown and this is reflected in the sculptures. Each also has an amazing little edelweiss insignia on the left side, too.

These heads will find immediate use with either of the two DML Gebirgsjäger sets or the DML Ski Jäger set. Be aware, also, that these caps were super popular and they made their way into other branches of the service. We have even seen them worn by Sturmgeschütz crewmen 43-44.

(10) HRH3, Heads wearing early WW2 Soviet M36 and Adrian helmets will definitely help broaden your figure making abilities. The early war Soviet helmet has been a rarity in 1/35th scale. Three of the heads have the M36 while the other two have French style Adrian helmets. These were all the rage in the early twenties. One helmet has the prominent Soviet star on the front,

while the other does not. We sorta wished for this on both, because one can always scrape it off if it's not desired. The helmets are impressively detailed though, complete with sub miniature rivets on their fronts and sides!

(11) HH2, Heads for Italian WW2 AFV crewmen and motorcyclist contains five helmeted Romans. Four contain the standard AFV helmet with the rear "curtain," while the fifth is sans drape. This last type was essentially a motorcyclist's helmet (it also had a visor), but it was seen on armored vehicle type dudes frequently.

There aren't many plastic opportunities for their use, but there are several Italian types in the Wolf range that could benefit nicely from a craniotomy à la Hornet.

In the mood for French tonight? **(12) HHH1, Heads wearing French WW1 pattern Adrian helmet** and **(13) HHH2 Heads wearing French WW2 pattern steel helmets** will take you there.

The first of the two depicts the earlier WW1 model and this is a somewhat heavier affair without the distinctive riveting. These helmets also had the branch of service insignia stamped into the metal on the front. In this case they all sport the grenade symbol

of the infantry. Unique details abound, as this set also provides several early century "Frenchy" style mustaches for three of the chaps and one helmet has a big dent in the top (and the wearer doesn't look too thrilled about it).

The second set is of the later type and these are all absent of any insignia, leaving it up to you to decide which branch of service to enlist them in. Many different branches were involved on the ground in 1940, so do your homework. One of the heads in this set has African features so this opens up some colonial possibilities. The other four also have really unique facial features, which is one of the delights of the Hornet line.

Remember, too, that the Adrian helmet saw service with the free French forces until VE day. Many of these troops used standard U.S. kit, so plopping one of these on a figure of a basic grunt is an instant conversion.

(14) HZH1, Heads with Israeli 1980/90s AFV helmets is a bit of a follow up for you Israeli fans. The U.S. style 60's helmets (Hornet number UH3) were suitable for your basic Centurion and M60 riders but Merkava mavens need this newer style with the protruding side bulges. Like the earlier Hornet release, each of

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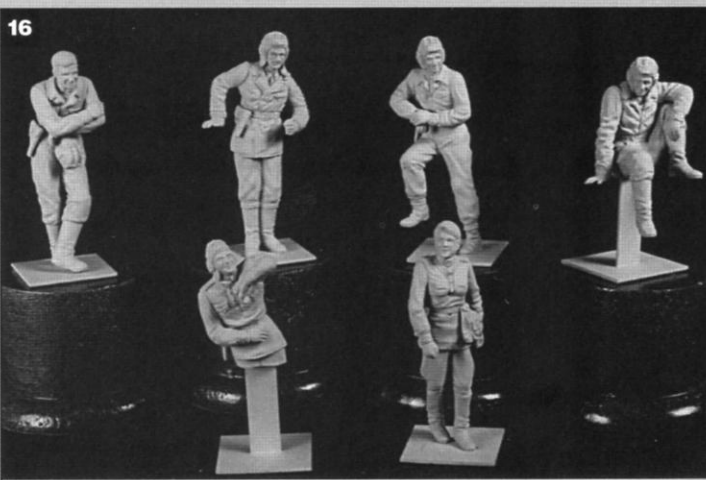
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15



16



17



18



these bone domes comes with a phenomenal little mike boom to stick in the side (to keep the price the same as the others, only four heads are included in this set, along with the mikes). These little gems come off their sprue with almost a breath and they easily will move up and down in position. This is as cool as it gets.

Tamiya

Tamiya's back in the tank crew business. (15) 35201, **German Tank Crew at Rest** is their first new set on the subject since... well since the first one over twenty years ago. Hey what took you guys so long?

The set includes six figures and all but one is a full figure. You get a variety of highly useful poses here and the level of detail is commensurate with all the latest stuff from the big T. In other words: really good. The level of detail and the sculpting quality is darn near resin. Even the faces aren't bad.

A few extra tid bits are thrown in like a small stool and two small birds. Everybody gets a pistol and there are several sets of binoculars to go around, too.

As usual, the box provides a smashing painting guide, with

field gray, black and camo all being illustrated.

The second set is (16) 35214, **Russian Army Tank Crew at Rest**. This is again a six figure set and again, one is a half dude. Unlike the German set this one appears to make up a whole scene with five swarthy tanker types checking out a walking Russian tanker of the female variant.

Tamiya-san pulls it off with a ton of intriguing little details such as the tanker's helmet hanging from the women's belt and a nice variety of uniforms from the basic Gymnastorka to coveralls and the two versions of the tankers leather jacket. Way to go!

Nothing much in the way of extras here, although everybody does get a holster for their Takarov (and the chick even gets a braided ponytail).

If this is a trend, let's have something in a U.S. tank crew. Can we, can we? Huh? Huh? Huh?

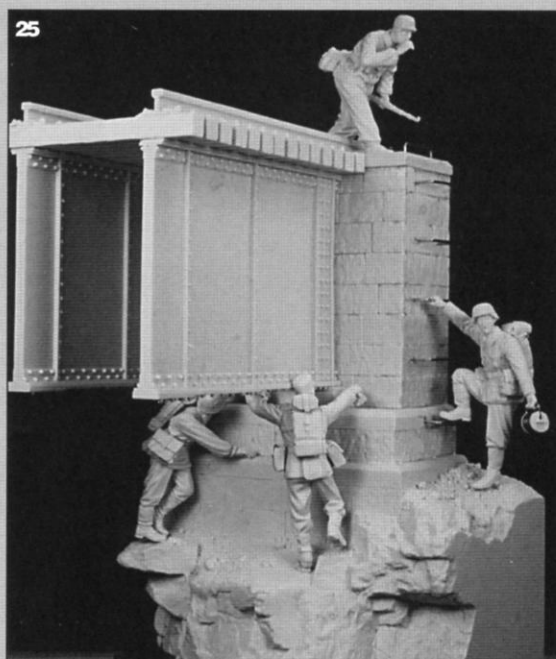
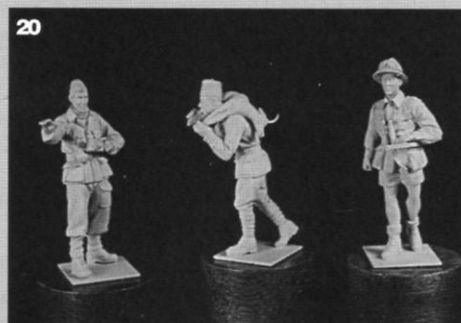
Verlinden Productions

Not a big load of stuff from VP this time, but some very interesting items none the less. (17) 1257, **US Tankers WWII "Have a Light?"** is a neat little two figure set comprised of a couple of

tankers sharing a smoke. They both wear the tanker's overalls and helmets. Both are super easy to stick together with lots of molded on detail (which we love). Depending on your conversion disposition, these could also be used separately. Say with one guy on a tank or truck and the other reaching up to give the light.

(18) 1272, **Afrika Korps AFV Commander** looks to be the start of a cool trend. This is the mini vignette, where a detailed base is thrown in along with other accessories and weapons. We've seen stuff like this before, but this is the first we've seen from VP. The setting is a dude in shorts mopping down the back of his neck, but the base has molded in oil cans, tool box, packs and mess items all set around an 88 gallon drum. The latter item serves as a perch for his MP40, which is a separate item, too. Several Jerry cans are also separate items and these are complete with handles. A few extras are tossed in for your parts box which is a nice touch.

(19) 1280, **Lenin Statue** is one of the more unusual items to come down the pike. It's a full sized 1/35th scale statue of ol' Vladimir along with his masonry base. The sculpture is all banged up with dozens of shell hits and gouges, which pretty much



places him in the town square of your next Barbarossa diorama. It's kind of an interesting idea really when you think about it. Consider several vehicles swirling around it with maybe a couple of guys posing for a picture. There is an extra head included in the form of a bust. You could use this as is or we suppose it could be used as a replacement for the existing head which has two neat shell holes!

Warriors

We continue to play catch-up with the Warriors line in the form of six new products. (20) 35139, **The Hunting Party** is a three figure set creating a scene from North Africa. It depicts a returning hunting party composed of an Afrika Korps trooper and a colonial auxiliary who is toting a recently deceased antelope. The third figure is signaling them to stop and pose for a photo. This is some of Rendall Patton's best work with the fabric sculpting done extremely well. The expression and general animation are also very good. The set would make a great little diorama on its own and the figures would also work in various situations on their own (that antelope might look good on a tank, too).

(21) 35144, **Waffen SS Kübelwagen Crew** is a quick way to spice up your new Tamiya Kübel. The three figure set is composed of an officer being greeted by an MP with another over-coated dude riding shotgun with his MP44. More of Rendall's good miniature cloth and effective poses.

(22) 35149, **Waffen SS Grenadier Firing MP 44**, is this quarter's entry from Warriors in the mini vignette category (more in the "maxi" category later). It's simply a grenadier firing down from atop a small brick pile. This whole thing is set on top of a turned base piece. This is a terrific idea. Just set the finished piece on a round base and viola! Cool city. This figure contains lots of molded on gear, so there's not many little bits to muck with.

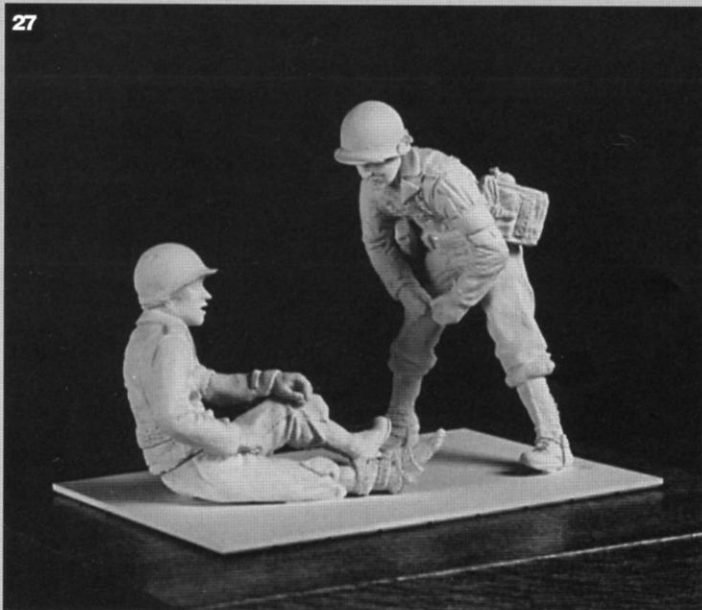
(23) 35152, **Luftwaffe Field Division Troops** is another multi-figure set, this time two bad cats in the distinctive Luftwaffe field jackets. Both are posed ready to give a rather nasty surprise to the next passerby. Like 149, much of their equipment is integral. This stands in contrast to many of Warriors earlier releases where much of the field gear was separate. Anything that gives us more time to build additional stuff is OK with us!

Now on to that maxi stuff... two new major items in the diorama

category. This stuff is really catching on. First up is (24) 35153, **Tour de France 1940 (Maginot Line Bunker)**. This is an actual gun turret from the Maginot line with a little scene built around it. The scene is two Germans bawling out a wounded French prisoner. It's quite an effective scene with the one German training his Mauser on the prisoner while the other gives the poor bastard a dose of crap.

More super detail on the figgys with excellent detail and rendering on the gun. Both the enlisted German and the prisoner are available as separate items if you don't need the turret. Of course you'll need plenty of these for that Maginot line diorama you've been planning...

Perhaps the most dramatic of these pieces is (25) 35175, **Blowing the Bridge**. It consists of four SS troopers about to toss a small trestle bridge. A very creative idea and equally rendered with the figures all cleverly posed going about their nasty business. The trestle itself is quite cleverly designed sitting on a rocky outcropping. Wicked stuff, this. These boxed up dios tend to be on the expensive side but they kick some ass when complete (case in point: our cover). If you figure in the cost of four figures,



ground work and other after market accessories, the cost isn't all that far off.

One last item from Warriors this time around that we really shouldn't be doing, but we just can't resist is (26) 9026, **Waffen SS Panther Cupola & Commander**. We had sworn off the big stuff, but this is just so freakin' cool. What you get is the top of a 1/9th scale Panther with a Commander type. The cupola is complete with all the periscopes and it includes all of its interior details, to boot.

The figure is a John Rosengrant special and all that minuscule detail you're always trying to pick out in 35th scale is super obvious. The comm system is rendered to a T with all the cord connections and switches. We went ahead and wired him up with solder, which was a hellava lot easier in this scale!

The coup de gras is an incredible MG34 that is so complete it even has the interior firing spring. The base and mount are also superbly rendered and thick brass wire is provided to create the arms on the mount. A small diagram is also provided as reference, but the box top was more than sufficient. We found that angling the forward edges of the arms with a file made the whole

thing stronger and easier to assemble. We also drilled out the base to receive the arms and to further increase the sturdiness of the assembly. At this size you can also hinge the actual mount (where it meets the gun). This can make it easier to position the figure the way you want it. We opted for the box top pose and at first, we thought it would never line up. Fortunately, he really won't go in any other way than the correct one. Dudes!

We look forward to seeing this one pop up in competitions and we're curious to see how much of the turret one will dare to put under the cupola! Great stuff.

YANKS Miniatures

Two dog face sets from those damned Yankees. (27) 9609, **US. Medic Treating Wounded GI** may look slightly familiar to some out there. It is based on a photo that appeared in the old Uniforms Illustrated on US Army uniforms in the ETO. The original scene, like the figure set, shows a medic rather casually dressing the wound of a GI while nonchalantly puffing away on a Lucky Strike (doesn't everybody's doctor do this?). Yanks has changed the uniforms to add a bit more variety with both figures

wearing the M41 jacket. The execution is good and the wounded figure's leg dressing done well. The medic has the appropriate "cigarette face" on, you know, talking out of one corner while smoking out of the other. One nice touch on the medic is the inclusion of the special medic's harness yoke which supported a canvas bag for supplies on each hip.

(28) 9612, **US Tanker Bailout** is another two figure excursion. This time it's two Joe's departing their mount—and looking none too happy about the fact. They both are wearing the famous tankers jacket and one sports a steel helmet while the other keeps his football version. There is some good action here. One gets the sense that they aren't moving as fast as they could (or should) which would probably be the result of being inside a 40 ton bell with a clapper made of a German shell!

Lots of uses for both these sets and especially well timed in light of Tamiya's allied kick. 

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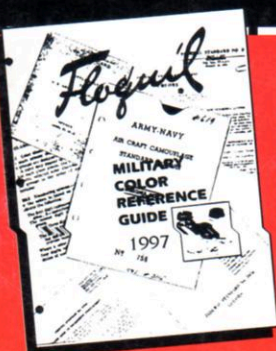
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